OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

January 1996 For United States of America Vol. 39, No. 1

Be Doers—Not Just Hearers

1 True Christians today take to heart the Bible admonition to be doers of the word, not just hearers. (Jas. 1:22) This sets them in sharp contrast with those who, although professing to be Christian, render mere lip service to God. (Isa. 29:13) Jesus clearly stated that only those *doing* the will of God will be saved.—Matt. 7:21.

2 Worship without godly works is meaningless. (Jas. 2:26) So we should ask ourselves, 'How do my works prove that my faith is genuine? What shows that I truly live in harmony with what I believe? How can I imitate Jesus more fully?' Honest answers to these questions will help us to see what progress we have made or still need to make in doing God's will.

3 As followers of Jesus, we must have the same primary goal in life as that expressed by the psalmist: "In God we will offer praise all day long, and to time indefinite your name we shall laud." (Ps. 44:8) Christianity is a way of life that manifests itself every day and in everything we do. What satisfaction we find as we demonstrate in all our activities our heartfelt desire to praise Jehovah!—Phil. 1:11.

4 **Giving Praise to Jehovah Involves More Than Living an Upright Life:** If fine conduct were all that God required, we could simply concentrate on refining our personality. However, our worship also involves declaring abroad Jehovah's excellencies and making public declaration to his name!—Heb. 13:15; 1 Pet. 2:9.

5 The public preaching of the good news is one of the most important works we perform. Jesus devoted himself to this work because he knew it meant everlasting life to those who would listen. (John 17:3) Today "the ministry of the word" is no less important; it is the only means by which people can be saved. (Acts 6:4; Rom. 10:13) Realizing the far-reaching benefits, we can appreciate why Paul admonished us to "preach the word" and to "be at it urgently." —2 Tim. 4:2.

6 To what extent should praising Jehovah occupy our lives? The psalmist said that it was on his mind all day long. Do we not feel that way? Yes, and we will regard every contact with another person as a potential occasion to speak about Jehovah's name. We will look for appropriate opportunities to direct our conversation toward spiritual matters. We will also endeavor to share regularly in field service activities organized by the congregation. Those whose circumstances allow can give serious consideration to the pioneer service, for this helps us to put the preaching work foremost in our life every day. God's Word assures us that by being persistent doers of God's will, we will be happy.—Jas. 1:25.

Benefit From the Theocratic Ministry School for 1996—Part 1

1 Have you read the instructions provided with the "Theocratic Ministry School Schedule for 1996"? Did you take note of some changes? From January through April, Assignment No. 3 will be based on the *Reasoning* book, and from May to December, it will be based on the newly released *Knowledge* book. Assignment No. 4 will be a talk about a different Bible character each week.

2 **Student Assignments:** Assignment No. 3 is given to a sister. When it is based on the *Reasoning* book, the setting should involve door-to-door or informal witnessing. When based on the *Knowledge* book, it should be presented as a return visit or a home Bible study. This should prove to be very helpful, since the *Knowledge* book will be used extensively for conducting home Bible studies.

3 If the setting is a home Bible study, both sisters can be seated. Get right into the study by making brief introductory comments, and then ask the printed question. The role of the householder should be played realistically. The cited scriptures can be looked up and read as time allows. The sister should employ the art of teaching by drawing the householder out with questions and by reasoning on the scriptures used.

4 What should be done if there are more scriptures cited in the assignment than can be discussed in five minutes? Select key texts that highlight the main points. If there are only a few scriptures, principal points in the lesson may be discussed more extensively. Occasionally, a paragraph or a sentence from the book may be read and then discussed with the householder.

5 The box entitled "Test Your Knowledge," found at the end of each chapter of the *Knowledge* book, may be reviewed briefly by the publisher whose assignment covers the final paragraph of the chapter. Information boxes that fall within the assigned paragraphs may also be discussed as time permits. If an information box occurs between two assignments, the sister handling the first assignment may consider it. Illustrations in the book may be commented on whenever they apply to the material under consideration.

6 Assignment No. 4 should be very interesting and practical. Each week it will consider a real-life example—a Bible character. Carefully study what *Insight,* Volume 1, has to say about the assigned Bible character. Develop the talk around the theme, and select key Bible texts that will help the audience to focus on the Bible character and his personality, including characteristics, traits, or inclinations that we want either to imitate or to reject. Scriptures not related directly to the Bible character may be included if they highlight how Jehovah views certain good or bad traits or if they relate to the theme of the talk.

7 If we take full advantage of the training provided in the school, we will be better able to "preach the word" in a way that demonstrates the fine "art of teaching."—2 Tim. 4:2.

SERVICE MEETINGS FOR JANUARY

Week Starting January 1

Song 133

7 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.*

13 min: "Preach With Insight." Discuss main points, and have one or two presentations demonstrated. Let the congregation know what older books are currently in stock.

25 min: "1996 'Messengers of Godly Peace' District Convention of Jehovah's Witnesses." Question-and-answer coverage by secretary. First, read December 15, 1995, convention assignment letter. Then, after considering third paragraph of article, read opening and closing paragraphs of Recommended Lodging List from convention. Emphasize need for all to select accommodations from Recommended Lodging List, whether a person is attending a local convention or one outside the assigned area, as noted in paragraph 12 of the article. In the section "Your Cooperation Is Appreciated," stress that the Bible principles of honesty, obedience, loving concern for others, and so forth, apply even if it appears that no one in the congregation will be using hotel rooms. Commend those cooperating with the Society's rooming arrangement.

Song 28 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting January 8

Song 138

10 min: Local announcements. Accounts report. Give appropriate commendation for financial support of local and worldwide work of getting the good news preached.

15 min: The Protective Value of the Advance Medical Directive/Release Card. Elder discusses with congregation the importance of each one properly filling out the Advance Medical Directive/Release card and carrying it at all times and the need for children to have the Identity Card always with them. As the title of the card suggests, it provides **advance** notice of what is wanted (or not wanted) as to medical care. Why is this done each year? A current card is more persuasive than one that might be considered to be out-of-date or no longer a reflection of one's convictions. The document speaks for you if you are unable to speak for yourself. Cards will be given out tonight. They should be filled out carefully at home, but they are not to be signed. As has been done for the last two years, signing and witnessing will be done at the Congregation Book Study locations, under the supervision of the book study conductors. Those who sign as witnesses should actually see the cardholder sign the document. This will be done following the book study during the week of January 15. (See page 2 of January 1994 *Our Kingdom Ministry* for details on procedure. See also letter of October 15, 1991.) All baptized publishers may fill out Advance Medical Directive/Release card. Unbaptized publishers, by adapting language from this card to their own circumstances and convictions, may wish to write out their own directive. Parents can help their unbaptized children fill out the Identity Card. Briefly mention the provision made in the Question Box of the December 1995 *Our Kingdom Ministry* for health-care power of attorney (proxy) forms to be filled out by any baptized publisher who desires to do so.

20 min: "Be Doers—Not Just Hearers." Questions and answers. As time permits, discuss the importance of obedience, based on *Insight* book, Volume 2, page 521, paragraphs 1 and 2.

Song 70 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting January 15

Song 77

12 min: Local announcements. Briefly discuss growing problem of not-at-homes. Encourage publishers to redeem the time by taking the initiative to approach people who may be passing by, standing on the sidewalk, or sitting in cars.

15 min: Local needs. (Or "Guard Your Sense of Urgency," a talk based on October 1, 1995, *Watchtower*, pages 25-8.)

18 min: "Return to Save Some." Review suggested presentations. Recommend the goal of starting studies in the new book, *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life.*

Song 156 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting January 22

Song 200

5 min: Local announcements.

20 min: "Benefit From the Theocratic Ministry School for 1996—Part 1." Talk by school overseer. Review directions provided for student assignments in Theocratic Ministry School instructions, which appeared in the October 1995 *Our Kingdom Ministry.*

20 min: "Speak With Boldness." Talk and discussion to be handled by an elder. Review local Sunday service arrangements. Give commendation for good support, and offer suggestions where improvement is needed.

Song 92 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting January 29

Song 31

10 min: Local announcements.

15 min: Witnessing During Inclement Weather. Many have to cope with severe cold, heavy snow, or rain during the winter months. A group of three or four publishers discuss how they are able to maintain a good share in the ministry in spite of bad weather. Many congregations work rural territories during summer months, concentrate on city territory during the winter, and arrange meetings for service in the territory to cut down on excessive travel. Some save apartment buildings for bad days. Keep car groups small to avoid excessive waiting. Break up house-to-house work with some return visits. Wear suitable clothing to keep warm and dry. Use the telephone or do letter writing when it is not wise to go outdoors. Discuss any other ideas that you have found to be practical in your area.

20 min: Offer the *Revelation Climax* Book During February. Explain why the book of Revelation was long viewed as a mystery beyond our understanding. Review paragraphs 6 to 9 on page 8, showing why this book is needed. Encourage publishers to have these thoughts in mind so that they will have a basis for talking points at the door. Refer to "The Framework of the Book of Revelation" on pages 98-9, and show how this can be used to give an overall view of the book of Revelation. Call attention to the striking illustrations inside the front and back covers and how they might be used to start a conversation. Remind all to pick up copies for use in service this weekend.

Song 143 and concluding prayer.

1996 "Messengers of Godly Peace" District Convention of Jehovah's Witnesses

[1] Genuine expressions of gratitude for the spiritually rejuvenating program were heard from many of the 1,452,460 who attended the 1995 "Joyful Praisers" District Conventions in the United States branch territory. Our hearts were filled with joy at seeing 15,801 praisers of Jehovah symbolize their dedication by water baptism. We rejoiced to receive the two new publications, *Jehovah's Witnesses and Education* and *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life*. Our having enjoyed such a stimulating program last year should truly motivate us to make every effort to attend the program being arranged for the 1996 "Messengers of Godly Peace" District Conventions. Surely all of us should invite our Bible students and help them to be there with us. These conventions will prove to be a real source of encouragement and strength as we continue joyfully serving Jehovah in these last days.

[2] Be sure to make your convention arrangements well in advance so that you can be there to enjoy all three days of the delightful spiritual program, from the opening song to the closing prayer. Lovingly include in your plans those who may need assistance, especially newly interested ones, so that they too can be present at every session. It would be very helpful to consider the information in this insert with any Bible students who may plan to attend. (Gal. 6:6, 10) The program starts with music at 9:30 a.m. on Friday and ends at approximately 4:30 p.m. The Saturday program begins at 9:30 a.m. and closes with song and prayer at approximately 4:30 p.m. The morning session on Sunday begins at 9:30, and the day's program concludes at approximately 4:00 in the afternoon. The following information will assist you with your preliminary preparations.

[3] **Instructions for Obtaining Rooming Accommodations:** After the Service Meeting for the week of January 1, congregations should post on the information board the 1996 Recommended Lodging List for the district convention to which the congregation is assigned. This list gives all the hotels presently cooperating with the Society's rooming arrangements. Your cooperation with these arrangements will assist the convention organization in its efforts to provide sufficient rooming accommodations for everyone at reasonable prices.

[4] **What You Should Do:** After—NOT before—your congregation posts the 1996 Recommended Lodging List containing the addresses, phone numbers, and agreed-upon rates of the hotels, you are free to phone the hotel of your choice from the list and make reservations, specifying the number of beds needed. Identifying yourself as one of Jehovah's Witnesses or as a delegate attending the Watchtower convention will qualify you for the rates listed, which in most cases are greatly reduced.

[5] One night's DEPOSIT IS REQUIRED to hold the room. Your deposit should be sent directly to the hotel AS SOON AS you make reservations. To make certain that your reservation is honored, be sure to ask for a confirmation number. If your deposit is not received by the hotel within ten days, your reservations can be canceled at any time. HOTELS ARE NOT OBLIGATED TO HOLD ROOMS WITHOUT A DEPOSIT. If you must cancel your reservation, you should immediately notify the hotel, making the room available for other delegates.

[6] If the hotel you call first is filled, call your next selection from the list, and so on. Often everyone calls the hotels closest to the convention facility being used; therefore, you may find it beneficial to try some hotels farther away. These also have quality rooms at lower rates. The convention Rooming Department will continue to provide the congregations with revised lists, deleting hotels that have been filled and listing additional hotels until everyone has a room. Thus, if all the hotels on the list are filled, please notify your congregation's secretary

To Obtain a Room

- Phone the hotel of your choice *after* the 1996 Recommended Lodging List is posted.
- Identify yourself as one of Jehovah's Witnesses or as a delegate attending the Watchtower convention.
- Be prepared to send one night's deposit *immediately* after reservation is made.
- If all hotels or dormitories are filled, please wait patiently for the next list.

and wait patiently for the next list, and you will be able to obtain a room. The congregation secretary should call the convention Rooming Department, using the telephone number on the Recommended Lodging List, and advise them that the hotels say they are full.

[7] **Dormitories:** A few conventions use school dormitories in addition to hotels in order to accommodate everyone. Usually, congregations will receive information on these a month or so after receiving the first hotel listing. Those needing accommodations of this type should follow the instructions on the list that is sent to the congregations.

[8] **Special Needs:** This provision is only for exemplary publishers, including their well-behaved children, who are approved by the Congregation Service Committee. Arrangements to care for persons with special needs should be made by the congregation where they attend meetings, not shifting this obligation to the convention organization. Elders and others who are aware of the individual circumstances can lovingly extend help. This often requires that publishers consider the needs of those in full-time service, the elderly, the infirm, and perhaps others. Publishers may extend help by taking such ones with them or caring for their needs in other practical ways.—Jas. 2:15-17; 1 John 3:17, 18.

[9] Of course, the Rooming Department will endeavor to provide suitable rooming accommodations for publishers with special needs if they cannot be assisted by those in the congregation. These publishers may discuss their situation with the congregation secretary. The secretary should speak with the rest of the Congregation Service Committee to see if it is possible for the congregation to assist these individuals in caring for their own rooming accommodations. If the congregation is unable to render the needed assistance, the secretary may give such persons a copy of the Special Needs Room Request form. Only those with special needs should fill out this form. It is to be filled out by the person making the request. It should be returned to the secretary, who will check it for completeness, for accuracy, and for verification of the circumstances that qualify the person for such consideration. The circumstances are to be EXPLAINED IN DETAIL by the secretary in the space provided on the form. All of this should be done well ahead of the convention. After verification by the service committee, the secretary will then forward the form to the Rooming Headquarters address. The individual making the request will be notified directly about the accommodations.

[10] Those with special needs should NOT go to the convention and request a room when they arrive, since the Rooming Department must have the verification of the Congregation Service Committee.

[11] Private-home accommodations are set aside for those who would experience real hardship if such accommodations were not available. They are not intended for those who can afford hotel rooms but who want free or inexpensive rooms just to save money. Furthermore, it is not proper for those making such requests to presume upon the hospitality of brothers by expecting to be accommodated for additional days before or after the convention. These rooms are provided for the convention period ONLY. Those receiving such accommodations should make sure that they and their children act respectfully toward the home of their host and not rummage through or damage the host's possessions or enter private areas of the home. If householders experience any difficulties along this line, these should immediately be brought to the attention of the rooming overseer at the convention.

[12] **Delegates Attending From Outside the Assigned Area:** The location assigned for you to attend is the one nearest your congregation. Arrangements for having adequate seating, literature, rooming accommodations, and so forth, are based on the premise that the majority of publishers will attend the convention to which their congregation is assigned. However, if for good reason you will be attending a convention other than the one to which you are assigned and need accommodations, parking tickets, and so forth, the congregation secretary can give you the address for that convention headquarters from the list on the back of the Special Needs Room Request form. Then you can request in writing a copy of **this year's** Recommended Lodging List or any other information you need for that location. Be sure to enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Upon receipt of this list, you should use it to make your reservation.

[13] **Your Cooperation Is Appreciated:** The success of this rooming arrangement depends on the cooperation of all those involved. (Compare Hebrews 13:17.) Most brothers and sisters cooperate fully with the Society's rooming arrangement and USE ONLY THE HOTELS ON THE RECOMMENDED LODGING LIST FOR THE CURRENT YEAR. Sadly, though, some are not cooperating, causing major difficulties in negotiating with the hotels. Some hotel personnel say they do not have to work with the convention because they will get our business anyway. Watchtower Convention contracted with the hotels on the list, stating that our convention delegates will be using them. It is a guarantee that they will get the business if they provide special rates for us. Most publishers are taking to heart the clear direc-

Ways You Can Cooperate

- Do not call hotels in the convention city and ask them if they are on the current list or have special Watchtower rates for the convention. Also, please do not use the same hotel year after year without first checking to see that it is definitely on the current list.

- Do not accept a higher rate for a hotel room than what is quoted on the current list, including Thursday and Sunday nights.

- Please do not make reservations at a hotel you do not intend to use or at more than one hotel, with the idea of checking them out, selecting the best, and canceling the others. (Matt. 5:37) This is unfair, as it prevents the hotels from getting business they could have had, and it deprives other publishers of the use of those rooms, which are often vitally needed.

- Do not reserve rooms for yourself or others without giving names and immediately sending the deposit for each room.

- Do not put more people in the room than the law and the management allow, which is normally no more than four or five persons, including children. Remember, you are paying a rate based on the number of persons you AGREED would be in the room.

tion that has been given in previous convention inserts, and many good results are being experienced.

14 One brother informed the Society that the rooming arrangement really “pays off.” He stayed at a hotel for “a mere $38.00 per night.” An individual checked out just before him and paid $82.00 per night. The brother went on to say: “What a savings for all of us! How could we ever afford $82.00 per night plus gas, food, and other expenses? I don’t think many of the brothers realize the ‘regular rates’—I know we didn’t until today. Thank you.” Another wrote: “After I attended this year’s district convention, it hit me. All my life I’ve attended the assemblies and conventions and have (sorry to say) taken for granted the love, hospitality, and care that is shown to Jehovah’s people. Every year without fail we receive a Recommended Lodging List containing hotels that offer significantly lower rates than normal and that we should stay in while attending the convention. I can only imagine the time, money, and effort spent working out all the details of prices, rates, and so forth, and really it doesn’t have to be done! It could be left up to each Witness to find his own room whatever the price, but it is not! All of this really impresses on me how much love and concern our Father, Jehovah, has for his servants and how he has set up an organization on earth to care for the needs of his sheep, spiritually and physically. So I want to thank you personally for all your hard work and love.” We trust that this year everyone will observe the guidelines for obtaining hotel accommodations noted in the box above.

15 Some have used Recommended Lodging Locations lists from previous years, and the hotel that they chose was no longer on the current list. Others receive letters from hotels they previously stayed at that are no longer on the list. So we ask that you use the current year’s list. Some are booking rooms at hotels not on the list or are paying rates higher than those listed, saying that they did not mention anything about their association with the Watchtower convention. They reserved their room, using their personal or corporate name. Of course, the hotel personnel involved easily observe that these individuals are Jehovah’s Witnesses by the dates they are booking and by their appearance and actions while staying at the hotel. Sad to say, some of our more affluent brothers are the ones violating the Society’s arrangement, feeling that they can afford to pay higher rates and not use the recommended hotels. However, this does not take into consideration the needs of the entire brotherhood. First Timothy 6:17-19 reminds us: “Give orders to those who are rich in the present system of things not to be high-minded, and to rest their hope, not on uncertain riches, but on God, who furnishes us all things richly for our enjoyment; to work at good, to be rich in fine works, to be liberal, ready to share, safely treasuring up for themselves a fine foundation for the future, in order that they may get a firm hold on the real life.” Just as we would care for the fatherless boy and the widow, we should at all times consider the needs of **all** our brothers and sisters, not just ourselves.—Phil. 2:4.

16 On the other hand, IF YOU EXPERIENCE A PROBLEM WITH A HOTEL, please do not hesitate to bring it to the attention of the Rooming

Department overseer at the convention so that he can assist you in resolving the matter right away.

17 The convention organization is working hard to make suitable accommodations available and save our brothers as much expense as possible. It is therefore in the best interests of all to cooperate fully with the Society's rooming arrangement. The listing gives a choice of good-quality accommodations at hotels that cooperate. With this arrangement our aim is to help all convention delegates to be accommodated as comfortably and economically as possible so that they can fully enjoy the fine spiritual program at the convention. Your loyal support of this provision from Jehovah through the faithful and discreet slave is greatly appreciated.

Note to Body of Elders: Please do not read the Society's December 15, 1995, convention assignment letter and the first and last paragraphs of the Recommended Lodging List for your congregation until the Service Meeting for the week of January 1. After that meeting, post the letter and the list on the information board. Elders are NOT to change their Service Meeting to an earlier night for this week unless the circuit overseer is visiting the congregation. NO ONE, INCLUDING THE ELDERS, SHOULD MAKE HOTEL RESERVATIONS BEFORE THIS SERVICE MEETING. To the extent possible, the congregation secretary should handle convention-related material and announcements on future Service Meetings unless otherwise specified or if he is unable to do so.

NEW PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

■ New Publications Available:
Does God Really Care About Us? —Romanian, Urdu
Elementary Bible Teachings —Armenian
Enjoy Family Life (Tract No. 21) —Urdu
Enjoy Life on Earth Forever! —Navajo
Holy Bible (with *New World Translation of the Christian Greek Scriptures*) —Chinese, Chinese (Simplified)
How to Improve Your Speaking and Teaching Ability —Serbian
How to Start and Continue Bible Studies —Turkish
Jehovah's Witnesses and Education —Albanian, Arabic, Cebuano, Croatian, Finnish, German, Hungarian, Korean, Norwegian, Polish, Romanian, Russian, Samoan, Serbian, Thai, Ukrainian
Jehovah's Witnesses—Unitedly Doing God's Will Worldwide —Slovenian
Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life —Afrikaans, Albanian, Bicol, Cebuano, Chinese (Simplified), Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, Efik, Estonian, Fijian, Finnish, Ga, German, Hausa, Hiligaynon, Hungarian, Igbo, Iloko, Isoko, Korean, Latvian, Lithuanian, New Guinea Pidgin, Niuean, Norwegian, Papiamento, Polish, Rarotongan, Romanian, Russian, Samar-Leyte, Sepedi, Serbian, Sinhalese, Slovak, Slovenian, Solomon Islands Pidgin, Swahili, Swedish, Thai, Tiv, Tsonga, Twi, Ukrainian, Urdu, Xhosa, Yoruba, Zulu
Lasting Peace and Happiness—How Can You Find Them? —Chinese
"Let Your Kingdom Come" —Amharic
Life in a Peaceful New World (Tract No. 15) —Gujarati
"Look! I Am Making All Things New" —Czech, Myanmar
Mankind's Search for God —Croatian
My Book of Bible Stories (Large size) —Bengali, Cambodian, Hindi, Persian
My Book of Bible Stories (Small size) —Armenian, Punjabi
New World Translation of the Christian Greek Scriptures —Indonesian
Reasoning From the Scriptures —Indonesian
Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand! —Gujarati, Tamil
Should You Believe in the Trinity? —Slovenian
Sing Praises to Jehovah (29 songs) —Albanian
Watch Tower Publications Index 1991-1993 —Polish
What Do Jehovah's Witnesses Believe? (Tract No. 14) —Gujarati
What Hope for Dead Loved Ones? (Tract No. 16) —Urdu
What Is the Purpose of Life—How Can You Find It? —Bulgarian, Myanmar, Persian, Punjabi
When Someone You Love Dies —Turkish
Who Really Rules the World? (Tract No. 22) —Macedonian, Urdu
Why You Can Trust the Bible (Tract No. 13) —Gujarati, Urdu
Will There Ever Be a World Without War? (for Jews) —Hungarian
Will This World Survive? (Tract No. 19) —Urdu
You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth (Small size) —Punjabi

■ Starting with the 1996 calendar year, a quarterly *Awake!* will be available in the Bulgarian language.

■ New Audiocassettes Available:
Acts of Apostles (set of two cassettes) —Norwegian
Album of Hebrew Scriptures—Volume 1; Genesis to *Ruth* (18 cassettes) —Swedish
Awake! on cassette —Swedish
Deuteronomy (set of two cassettes) —Swedish
Exodus (set of three cassettes) —Swedish
Jehovah's Judgment Against Law-Defying People (Drama, single cassette) —Italian
Leviticus (set of two cassettes) —Swedish
Numbers (set of three cassettes) —Swedish
Sing Praises to Jehovah (single album with eight cassettes) —Italian

■ New Braille Publications Available:
Jehovah's Witnesses and Education (one volume) —Grade-two English
Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life (two volumes) —Grade-two English

A new edition of *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures* in grade-two English Braille will consist of 20 volumes bound in durable black vinyl covers. The following 10 volumes are now available:

Set 1: (Hebrew Scriptures)
  Volume 1: *Genesis*
  Volume 2: *Exodus* through *Leviticus*, chapter 15
  Volume 3: *Leviticus*, chapter 16 through *Numbers*
  Volume 4: *Deuteronomy* through *Joshua*
  Volume 5: *Judges* through *1 Samuel*
Set 2: (Hebrew Scriptures)
  Volume 6: *2 Samuel* through *1 Kings*
  Volume 7: *2 Kings* through *1 Chronicles*
  Volume 8: *2 Chronicles* through *Ezra*
  Volume 9: *Nehemiah* through *Job*
  Volume 10: *Psalms 1-106*

Please mark requests for Braille publications ATTENTION: BRAILLE DESK. Include name and address of the person who will use the Braille material.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **January:** *Making Your Family Life Happy, Worldwide Security Under the "Prince of Peace,"* or *True Peace and Security—How Can You Find It?* Congregations that have on hand any 192-page books published prior to 1982 should offer such books first. **February:** Either *Making Your Family Life Happy* or *Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand!* **March:** *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life.* **April:** Individual copies of both *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* For territory that is covered frequently, any brochure (except the *Education* and *School* brochures) may also be used. Where interest is found on return visits, subscriptions may be offered. NOTE: Congregations that have not yet requested the above-mentioned campaign items should do so on their next monthly Literature Request Form (S-14).

■ Congregations should make convenient arrangements to celebrate the Memorial this year on Tuesday, April 2, after sundown. Although it is desirable for each congregation to hold its own Memorial celebration, this may not always be possible. Where a number of congregations normally use the same Kingdom Hall, perhaps one or more congregations can obtain the use of another facility for that evening. The Memorial should not start so late that newly interested people find it inconvenient to attend. Further, the schedule should not be so tight that there is no time before or after the celebration to greet visitors, make arrangements for continued spiritual assistance for some, or enjoy a general interchange of encouragement. After thoroughly considering all factors, the elders should decide what arrangements will best help those who attend the Memorial to benefit fully from the occasion.

■ The special public talk for the 1996 Memorial season will be given on Sunday, April 21. The subject of the talk will be "Remaining Blameless Amid a Crooked Generation." An outline will be provided. Those congregations having the visit of the circuit overseer, a circuit assembly, or a special assembly day that weekend will have the special talk the following week. No congregation should have the special talk before April 21.

■ Starting in February, and no later than March 3, the new public talk for circuit overseers will be "A Loyal Congregation Under Christ's Leadership."

■ New Videocassettes Available:
Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life (Volume 1, chapters 1-3) —American Sign Language
The Bible—Accurate History, Reliable Prophecy —Korean

CONGREGATION BOOK STUDY

Schedule for congregation studies in the book *Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand!*

	From:	To:
January 1:	**p. 258, ¶ 1**	**p. 261, ¶ 12**
January 8:	**p. 261, ¶ 13**	**p. 264, ¶ 21**
January 15:	**p. 265, ¶ 22**	**p. 268, ¶ 6**
January 22:	**p. 268, ¶ 7**	**p. 271, ¶ 19**
January 29:	**p. 272, ¶ 1**	**p. 274, ¶ 10**

OCTOBER SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**176**	**122.5**	**89.6**	**52.0**	**4.9**
Pios.	**77,226**	**81.2**	**45.1**	**25.0**	**2.3**
Aux. Pios.	**28,145**	**59.2**	**34.7**	**15.2**	**1.2**
Pubs.	**808,302**	**9.6**	**6.6**	**3.6**	**0.4**
TOTAL	**913,849**		Baptized: **2,829**		

The month of October brings a new peak of regular pioneers. The 77,226 reporting represents an increase of 567, or 1 percent, over the last peak, in October 1994.

Speak With Boldness

NOT TACTLESS
2/15 WT Parking lot

[1] During recent years publishers in some areas are finding it increasingly difficult to speak to people at their home. Many report that in their territory more than 50 percent of the people are not at home when calls are made from house to house. As a result, much of the time spent is unproductive. Leave something!

[2] Years ago many people were found at home on Sunday, which was generally viewed as a day of rest. Customs have changed. It is common today for people to work at secular jobs, care for family needs such as shopping, or be involved in recreation, which also takes them away from home. So even on Sundays, contacting people from house to house has become a problem.

[3] When people are not at home, it obviously means that they are somewhere else. Since our goal is to talk to people, why not speak to those we do meet—on the street, in the marketplace, or in the workplace. It was Paul's custom to approach "those who happened to be on hand," to give them a witness. (Acts 17:17) This proved to be a productive form of witnessing then, and it is a productive form of witnessing in our day.

[4] When we go from house to house, we usually see people walking by casually or perhaps waiting for someone. On a nice day, they may be sitting on a park bench or working on or washing their car. A neighborly smile and a friendly greeting may be all we need to start a conversation. If they live nearby, we could even mention that we likely just missed them at their home and now we are glad that we have this chance to speak with them. By taking the initiative to show a little more boldness, many have enjoyed rewarding experiences.

woman

[5] **Boldness Gets Results:** One brother related that he approaches people who are standing, waiting for a bus, walking along leisurely, or sitting in their car. With a warm smile and a cheerful voice, he takes the approach of a friendly neighbor who just wants to visit. In this way not only has he placed much literature but he has also started several Bible studies.

Parking lot when shopping after

[6] Another brother and his wife were calling from door to door when they encountered a woman walking along carrying a large bag of groceries. They struck up a conversation, commending her for her diligence in looking after the needs of her family. "But who," they asked, "can supply the needs of mankind?" That sparked the woman's interest. A brief conversation led to an invitation to her home, where a Bible study was started.

[7] So the next time you are witnessing from door to door, whether on Sunday or on another day of the week, and you find that people are not at home, why not muster up a little more boldness and speak to people you do meet—on the street or elsewhere? (1 Thess. 2:2) You may have a more productive ministry, and you will experience greater joy in your service.

all they can say is NO -
Read them - in a hurry = S

see someone Walking

Preach With Insight

1 To have insight requires that we understand something about the people to whom we preach. Why? Because our success in reaching people's hearts depends on our ability to present the Kingdom message in a manner that appeals to them. During the month of January, we will be offering a variety of Bible study books that the congregation may still have on hand. Otherwise, publishers will use the book *True Peace and Security—How Can You Find It?* The following suggestions may be helpful.

2 ***If you choose to offer the book "True Peace and Security—How Can You Find It?" you could refer to the illustration on page 4 and say:***

■ "This illustration is an artist's conception of what the Bible teaches about God's purpose for the earth. What do you think it would require for you and your family to live in a paradise earth? [Allow for response.] The Bible shows that true peace and security will soon be a reality earth wide and that Paradise will be restored. [Read Psalm 37:10, 11.] This book can show you what you need to do to benefit from what God will do. I'd like to leave this copy with you." If there is a favorable response, you may briefly explain the donation arrangement.

3 ***When you are using the book "Making Your Family Life Happy," you might say something like this:***

■ "Would you agree that the modern family faces challenges that were unknown to previous generations? [Allow for response.] Why, in your opinion, is this happening? [Acknowledge response. Turn to and read 2 Timothy 3:1-3.] The phrases 'disobedient to parents' and 'having no natural affection' accurately describe many in our day. However, the same God who predicted these problems has also given us sound guidance on how to draw a family closer together." Read the paragraph from "The Publishers" on page 2. Offer the book without charge, and then mention the donation arrangement.

4 ***Another approach that might be used with the book "True Peace and Security—How Can You Find It?" begins with this question:***

■ "Many people today believe that God is not really interested in us humans on the earth and that he is not going to do anything about the problems that exist here. Is that how you feel? [Allow for response.] Let me read to you what this Bible study aid has to say about God's intent toward man and the earth. [Read paragraph 1 and the first sentence of paragraph 2 on page 43.] I assure you, there is a sound reason for God's toleration of the problems that exist on the earth. If you would like to learn what it is, please read this book, which is entitled *True Peace and Security—How Can You Find It?*" If the householder promises to read the book, leave it and mention the donation arrangement.

5 ***If you would like to make a brief presentation using the book "Worldwide Security Under the 'Prince of Peace,'" you could open the book to page 4 and ask:***

■ "What is to become of planet Earth? Many wonder about this. Do you think it will ever become a paradise?" Acknowledge householder's response, and then read the opening remarks on page 2. Offer to leave the book, and explain the donation arrangement.

6 Good insight will enable us to discern the needs and interests of the people we meet. Proverbs 16:23 assures us of this, saying: "The heart of the wise one causes his mouth to show insight, and to his lips it adds persuasiveness."

Return to Save Some

1 It is God's will "that all sorts of men should be saved and come to an accurate knowledge of truth." (1 Tim. 2:4) What can we do to help? Make return visits with the objective of teaching the truth. What will you say? The following suggestions may help you.

2 ***When calling on someone who accepted the book "True Peace and Security—How Can You Find It?" you might refer again to the illustration on page 4 and ask the householder:***

■ "After further examining the book I left with you and thinking on God's promise of a paradise earth, how do you feel about these marvelous promises God has made for mankind?" After acknowledging the householder's response and commenting briefly on it, you may call attention to chapters 2 and 3 and suggest considering why man's efforts toward peace and security, including those of a religious nature, have failed.

3 ***If you left the householder wondering what the reason is for God's toleration of wickedness, on your return you might resume the discussion by saying:***

■ "I enjoyed our conversation when we first met, and I wanted to return to see how you felt about the reason for God's putting up with the unrest and violence that exist in the world today. [Allow for response. Turn to and read paragraph 25 on page 54 in the *True Peace* book, including the quotation from 2 Peter 3:8, 9.] Notice that the next chapter in the book asks, 'What Has God Been Doing?' Perhaps we can discuss the answer to that question on my next visit."

4 ***You might follow up the placement of the book "Making Your Family Life Happy" with this approach:***

■ "When I first visited with you, I was impressed by your concern for your family. Living as we do in the last days of a wicked system of things, it is vital for families to keep preparing for the future. To that end, the book that I left with you, *Making Your Family Life Happy,* strongly recommends the having of regular Bible discussions in the home. [Read paragraph 10 on pages 185-6.] If I may, I'd like to take just a few minutes to demonstrate how people in some 200 lands discuss the Bible at home as family groups." As time allows, use the material under the subheading on page 71 to demonstrate the study.

5 ***You could follow up the placement of the "Worldwide Security" book by saying:***

■ "I wanted to come back to show you more about God's purpose for this earth." Turn to the illustration on pages 172-3, read Revelation 21:3, 4, and then briefly explain how God's Kingdom will fulfill this promise. Offer a free home Bible study.

6 Remember that the goal in making return visits is to start Bible studies. The new book, *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life,* is especially designed for conducting studies. When we follow up on the placement of older books and actually start a study, it would be good to direct attention to this new book. We will find much joy as those who study learn to call upon Jehovah for salvation. —Acts 2:21.

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OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

February 1996 For United States of America Vol. 39, No. 2

Proclaiming the Truth Daily in Imitation of Jesus

[1] Jesus had a specific work to accomplish when he came to the earth. It was remarkably simple: 'To bear witness to the truth.' (John 18:37) He proclaimed the truth about his Father's marvelous qualities and purposes. This work was like food to him; his whole life revolved around it. (John 4:34) Luke reported that Jesus kept "teaching *daily* in the temple." (Luke 19:47) Jesus made full use of the time that was available. (John 9:4) Shortly before his death, he was able to declare to his Father: "I have glorified you on the earth, having finished the work you have given me to do."—John 17:4.

[2] When our hearts are filled with appreciation for all that Jehovah has done, we likewise feel compelled to speak about him on a daily basis. We become just like Jesus' disciples who boldly declared: "We cannot stop speaking about the things we have seen and heard." (Acts 4:20) Their speaking about Jehovah was continuous, for the record states that *"every day* . . . they continued without letup." (Acts 5:42) We should ask ourselves, 'Am I an imitator of my Teacher, Jesus?'

[3] **Preaching With Urgency:** Jesus foretold that when the Kingdom message has been declared in all the earth, "then the end will come." (Matt. 24:14) This should impress on us the importance and urgency of our work. With the lives of literally millions at stake, we can find nothing more important or beneficial to do. Since this system of things is nearing its end, the time left to complete this work is reduced!

[4] Reports show that Jehovah is speeding up the ingathering of sheeplike ones. (Isa. 60:22) In many parts of the world, people are literally flocking to the truth, joyfully declaring, in effect: "We will go with you people, for we have heard that God is with you"! (Zech. 8:23) More so than at any time in the past, Jesus' words are true: "The harvest is great, but the workers are few. . . . Beg the Master of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest." (Matt. 9:37, 38) Does that not inspire us to be zealous like Jesus' disciples who "were *continually* in the temple blessing God"?—Luke 24:53.

[5] **Make the Truth Known Daily:** Every day, we should be looking for ways to impart the truth to others. Opportunities are readily available. Could you take a few minutes to phone a friend or an acquaintance who you feel might be receptive? Or how about writing a letter to someone you were unable to find at home? Have you thought about offering a tract to the storekeeper when you do your shopping? Likely, you can think of many other opportunities you have each day to share your hope with others. If you make the effort and demonstrate a little boldness, Jehovah will help you.—1 Thess. 2:2.

[6] So, as we begin each day's activities, we should ask ourselves, 'Will I take the initiative to share my hope with someone if an opportunity opens up today?' Imitate the attitude of Jesus, who explained why he was sent to earth: "I *must* declare the good news of the kingdom of God." (Luke 4:43) If we want to be like our Teacher, we will do the same.—Luke 6:40.

Benefit From the Theocratic Ministry School for 1996—Part 2

[1] Shortly after the inauguration of the Theocratic Ministry School in 1943, one of the Society's branches reported: "This very fine arrangement succeeded in a short while in helping many brothers who had imagined they would never be public speakers to become very efficient on the platform and more effective in the field." The school continues to provide excellent training, which all of us need.

[2] **Bible Reading:** Those who are given speaking parts are not the only ones who benefit from the school. Actually, all of us have an assignment—the weekly Bible reading. The school schedule shows which chapters of the Bible are to be read each week. There are many Scriptural reminders that stress the importance of reading the Bible daily. (Josh. 1:8; Ps. 1:2; Acts 17:11) Bible reading is essential to good spiritual health; it nourishes the mind and heart. If we read the Bible for at least five minutes a day, we will be able to keep up. At the end of the year, we will have read over 150 chapters of God's Word. If we keep a Bible handy, we should be able to read some of it every day.

[3] **Instruction Talk:** In order to move the brothers to loyal, zealous service, the speaker who gives the instruction talk needs to use good teaching methods, to convey understanding, and to build appreciation for Jehovah, his Word, and his organization. Elders and ministerial servants can accomplish this by preparing well, building their talk around the theme, speaking with conviction, and making the material live. (Heb. 4:12) It is important that the speaker keep within his allotted time. The *"All Scripture"* book is replete with Bible texts and presents an array of exciting Scriptural material that can benefit us spiritually. The *Proclaimers* book contains the modern-day history of Jehovah's visible organization and relates events in the lives of real people who demonstrated faith, zeal, devotion, and love. There is much to be learned about our theocratic heritage and the way in which Jehovah has blessed his people in modern times.

[4] **Bible Highlights:** Brothers given this assignment should select specific verses that can be applied in a practical way for the benefit of the congregation. This requires reading the chapters assigned, meditating on them, and researching selected verses to find points that will clarify the meaning of those scriptures. In the back of the *Watch Tower Publications Index,* there is the "Scripture Index," which can be helpful in locating information about specific Bible verses. Brothers handling this part should exercise good judgment and avoid bringing in irrelevant material. They should not prepare more material than can reasonably be covered in six minutes.

[5] All of us can benefit from the Theocratic Ministry School. It can help us improve in our speaking and teaching ability. Taking full advantage of this provision will surely help us make our 'advancement manifest to all persons.' —1 Tim. 4:15.

SERVICE MEETINGS FOR FEBRUARY

Week Starting February 5

Song 96

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Theocratic News.

15 min: "Proclaiming the Truth Daily in Imitation of Jesus." Questions and answers. Read paragraph 5.

20 min: "Revelation—A Key to True Happiness." Discuss suggested presentations, and have one or two demonstrations. Remind publishers to explain how a donation can be made toward the worldwide work.

Song 14 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting February 12

Song 191

10 min: Local announcements. Accounts report. Announce special field service arrangements for February 19.

13 min: "Prepare for Magazine Activity in April." Highlight value of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* in making the good news known. Read the two-paragraph article, and outline what local congregation will do to make April a special month for magazine distribution.

22 min: "How Can I Get a Listening Ear?" Questions and answers. Have two publishers discuss how they will try to demonstrate more warmth when speaking at the doors, using some of the suggestions given in the *School Guidebook,* pages 165-7, paragraphs 10-21.

Song 133 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting February 19

Song 72

10 min: Local announcements.

15 min: "Benefit From the Theocratic Ministry School for 1996—Part 2." Talk by school overseer. Stress the need to read God's Word daily.

20 min: "Help Them Understand." Review suggested presentations for making return visits. Elder discusses with two or three publishers features of the *Revelation Climax* book and how these may be highlighted. Demonstrate one or two presentations. Offer suggestions on how to develop interest to the point where a Bible study can be started in the book *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life.*

Song 53 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting February 26

Song 28

10 min: Local announcements.

15 min: Preparing Appealing Presentations. Service overseer or other elder discusses with two or three publishers the benefits in having door-to-door presentations that feature something that has local appeal. For example, local news reports about current efforts to improve standard of living; growing trend of marital problems, delinquent children, or difficulties in finding employment; or news items that show why people are becoming more and more skeptical about remedies offered by politicians and clergymen. Mention some current news items in your community, and discuss how they might be used to start conversations.

20 min: Offering the Book *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life* During March. Point out some of the book's interesting features that can be used to start conversations. (1) Draw attention to striking illustrations, such as the ones shown on pages 4-5, 86, 124-5, 188-9. (2) Show how each chapter ends with a list of review questions, and explain how these could be used as the basis for presentations. Householder could be asked if he would like to know the answers. Pick out some questions among those listed on pages 11, 22, 61, 149. (3) Refer to box on page 102, and give suggestions showing how "Some Features of the Last Days" could be used to stimulate interest. (4) Stress how the book is especially designed for conducting progressive studies. Chapters are short, the material is easy to understand, powerful scriptures are cited, and probing questions focus on key points. Urge all to offer the book with the goal of starting studies.

Song 151 and concluding prayer.

Prepare for Magazine Activity in April

As noted on our *1996 Calendar,* the Lord's Evening Meal will be celebrated this year on April 2. Encouraged by this grand occasion, let one and all share in zealous magazine distribution throughout April. What timely magazines we will be using! *The Watchtower* for April 1 will focus on last year's district convention public address, "Praise the King of Eternity!" The April 15 *Watchtower* will follow the theme of last April's special public talk, "False Religion's End Is Near." This year's special talk on April 21, "Remaining Blameless Amid a Crooked Generation," should give added impetus. We will be featuring the April 22 *Awake!* on the topic "When Wars Will Be No More."

As a follow-up to last April's *Kingdom News* campaign, this April should be an outstanding month for magazine distribution. Now is the time to make plans. Many will want to enroll as auxiliary pioneers. As needed, extra copies of the April magazines should be ordered. Plans can be made for Magazine Days, with everyone possible participating—morning, noon, and/or evening. Let all of us "become doers of the word." As foretold regarding the Messiah at Psalm 69:9, may we also be able to say: "Sheer zeal for your house has eaten me up."—Jas. 1:22; John 2:17.

THEOCRATIC NEWS

Albania: The 600 publishers reporting for August was the 28th consecutive peak.

Angola: An all-time peak of 26,129 publishers was reached by the close of the service year. There was also a peak in regular pioneers of 1,309. Publishers averaged over 15 hours and two Bible studies in August.

Britain: We are delighted to report that a new all-time peak of 132,440 publishers was reached in August. This represents a 2-percent increase over the last service year.

Chile: During the month of August, a new all-time peak in publishers was reached, with a total of 50,283! For the first time, the 50,000 mark was surpassed. Publishers spent an average of 12 hours in field service. A total of 63,732 home Bible studies were conducted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Literature to be used during **February:** Either *Making Your Family Life Happy* or *Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand!* **March:** *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life.* **April and May:** Individual copies of both *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* For territory that is covered frequently, any brochure (except the *Education* and *School* brochures) may also be used. Where interest is found on return visits, subscriptions may be offered. NOTE: Congregations that have not yet requested the above-mentioned campaign items should do so on their next monthly Literature Request Form (S-14).

- The secretary and the service overseer should review the activity of all regular pioneers. If any are having difficulty meeting the hour requirement, the elders should arrange for assistance to be given. Review points in paragraphs 12-20 of the August 1986 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert.

- The Memorial celebration will be held on Tuesday, April 2, 1996. Although the talk may start earlier, please remember that the passing of the Memorial bread and wine *should not begin until after sundown.* Check with local sources to determine when sundown occurs in your area. No meetings other than those for field service are to be held on that date. If your congregation normally has meetings on Tuesday, you may want to switch these to another day of the week if the Kingdom Hall is available.

- Publishers who wish to serve as auxiliary pioneers in March, April, and May should make their plans now and turn in their application early. This will help the elders to make necessary field service arrangements and have sufficient magazines and other literature on hand.

- On Saturday, May 11, 1996, the Society's facilities in Brooklyn, Wallkill, and Patterson, New York, will be closed for spring cleaning. So, there will be no arrangements for tours or for congregations to pick up literature on that day.

- A packet of legal materials is available to assist publishers who are involved in lawsuits over child custody and visitation matters where our religion is under attack. The packet should be requested by the *body of elders only* in such a case if it is evident that the publisher's religious beliefs will be at issue. Helpful information can be found for those facing secular issues on child custody or visitation litigation in *Awake!* of October 22, 1988, pages 2-14, and the chart found in *Awake!* of April 22, 1991, page 9.

CONGREGATION BOOK STUDY

Schedule for congregation studies in the book *Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand!*

	From:	To:
February 5:	**p. 275, ¶ 11**	**p. 279, ¶ 24**
February 12:	**p. 279, ¶ 1**	**p. 282, ¶ 13**
February 19:	**p. 282, ¶ 14**	**p. 286, ¶ 26**
February 26:	**p. 286, ¶ 1**	**p. 289, ¶ 13**

NOVEMBER SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**186**	**121.1**	**77.7**	**52.4**	**5.1**
Pios.	**76,898**	**77.9**	**38.2**	**24.3**	**2.4**
Aux. Pios.	**23,457**	**57.8**	**29.7**	**15.3**	**1.3**
Pubs.	**814,895**	**9.5**	**6.1**	**3.6**	**0.4**
TOTAL	**915,436**		Baptized: **2,915**		

How Can I Get a Listening Ear?

[1] In the city of Philippi, "a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, . . . was *listening,* and Jehovah opened her heart wide to pay attention to the things being spoken by Paul." (Acts 16:14) What does this account teach us? Listening is what opens the door to a person's learning the truth. Our success in sharing the Kingdom message depends primarily on the willingness of the householder to listen. Once we have a hearing ear, it is relatively easy to present our message. But getting someone to listen can be a challenge. What can we do?

[2] Before sharing in the service, we should give attention to our appearance and the equipment we will be using. Why? People are more inclined to listen to someone who presents himself with dignity. Are we dressed tastefully yet modestly? Although sloppiness may be popular in the world, we avoid such carelessness because we are ministers representing God's Kingdom. Our clean and neat appearance adds favorable testimony to the Kingdom message we preach.

[3] **Be Friendly and Respectful:** In spite of today's changing attitudes, many people still have regard for the Bible and will respond favorably to a respectful and friendly conversation about what the Bible contains. A warm, genuine smile can put the householder at ease and open the way for a pleasant discussion. Our sincerity and good manners should also be reflected in our speech and conduct, which includes our listening respectfully to the observations of the householder.

[4] Our purpose is to share the Bible's hope with others. With this in mind, we should be sure that our conversation is appealing, not adversarial or challenging. There is no need to waste time arguing with a person who is clearly opposed. (2 Tim. 2:23-25) We can select from a wide variety of encouraging and timely presentations provided for us in *Our Kingdom Ministry* and the *Reasoning* book. Of course, we need to prepare these well so that we can speak in a warm and convincing manner. —1 Pet. 3:15.

[5] After our visit, few householders are able to remember exactly what we said. However, virtually all of them can remember the *manner* in which it was spoken. We should never underestimate the power of goodness and kindness. Surely there are many sheeplike people in our territory who will give a listening ear to the truth just as Lydia did in the first century. Giving careful attention to our appearance and manner of speech can encourage sincere ones to listen to God's Word and favorably receive it. —Mark 4:20.

Revelation—A Key to True Happiness

1 The words of the apostle John at Revelation 1:3 are good news to us because he tells us how to find happiness. He wrote: "Happy is he who reads aloud and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and who observe the things written in it." The book *Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand!* has aided many in finding much happiness. We have good reason to offer it to others.

2 ***You might be able to get a conversation started with this question:***

■ "Do you think the Bible book of Revelation was meant to be understood, or was it always to remain a mystery? [Allow for response.] Many share your view. Note what the Bible says at Revelation 1:3. [Read.] So Revelation can be understood, and the knowledge that it contains can bring us happiness. How is this possible?" Review thoughts in paragraph 2 on page 6, and then say: "This publication presents a verse-by-verse discussion of the book of Revelation. It will be well worth your time to read it. I'd be pleased to leave this copy with you."

3 ***Since many are concerned about providing for their material needs, this might create some interest:***

■ "What do you think is our greatest need? [Allow for response.] There are many who are convinced that we need more material things." Turn to page 73 and review the main points in the box entitled "Materialism Versus Wisdom." Continue by saying: "This shows that too much emphasis is being placed on physical things; we should be more concerned about our spiritual needs. True knowledge is what we really need. But knowledge about what?" Read John 17:3, and explain how knowledge about God can lead to everlasting life. Offer to leave the book and to come back and show how it reveals marvelous information about God's purpose to satisfy all the needs of mankind.

4 ***Since many are concerned about distress in the world, you might try this:***

■ "Everyone I talk to is concerned about the future. Some world leaders feel that we are on the verge of a new age of peace. How do you feel about that? [Allow for response.] In spite of all man's efforts, violence and distress continue to increase worldwide. The Bible reveals the only lasting solution to these problems. [Read 2 Peter 3:13. Turn to the illustration on page 302, and explain how God's heavenly Kingdom will bring lasting peace and security to this earth.] This publication will help you see how you can be part of this new society of people who will enjoy everlasting life under the rule of God's Kingdom."

5 ***If you encounter someone who is busy and you must be brief, you might say this:***

■ "Since you only have a moment, I would like to leave this tract [or magazine article] entitled [select appropriate tract or article]. I encourage you to read it. The next time I stop by, I'd like to know what you think of it."

6 When offering our literature, give others the opportunity to show their appreciation by contributing toward the costs of the worldwide preaching work. Such giving will add to the happiness they will experience by discerning the meaning of the marvelous prophecies of Revelation.—Prov. 3:13.

Help Them Understand

1 The apostle Peter acknowledged that some things stated in the Bible are "hard to understand." (2 Pet. 3:16) Many have felt that way about the book of Revelation. However, its meaning has been made crystal clear in the book *Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand!* How can we help interested ones to make the best use of it?

2 ***If you discussed Revelation 1:3 on your initial visit, this thought might stir renewed interest:***

■ "Previously we discussed how an understanding of the book of Revelation can bring happiness. However, such happiness does not come automatically. At least two things are required of us: We must study the Bible, and we must practice what we learn." Read and comment on James 1:25. Turn to paragraph 9 on page 8, and point out how an understanding of the book of Revelation can help us learn how we can gain happiness in a paradise new world.

3 ***If you discussed John 17:3 on your first call, you could stress the need for taking in more Bible knowledge by saying:***

■ "The last time I was here, we read at John 17:3 that taking in knowledge about God can lead to everlasting life. But would you want to live forever in the kind of world we live in today? [Allow for response.] Most would not. For this reason, we can rejoice when we hear what God has promised." Turn to paragraph 6 on page 303, read Revelation 21:4, and then describe what the world will be like when "the former things have passed away." Offer to return again for further discussion.

4 ***If you used the illustration on page 302 to show that God's Kingdom will bring an end to distress, you could open the book to that page again and say:***

■ "We discussed the blessings depicted here that people will enjoy under the rule of God's Kingdom. What do you think we must do if we want to live under that Kingdom? [Allow for response.] Some people in Bible times set an excellent example that we would do well to imitate." Read Acts 17:11, stressing the need to 'examine the Scriptures daily.' Explain that Jehovah's Witnesses are helping sincere people in the community to study God's Word and understand it better.

5 ***If you left the tract "Will This World Survive?" with a householder who was too busy to converse, you could use this approach:***

■ "When I called recently, you were quite busy. I left a tract with you that raised a question about the world's survival through these turbulent times. We read Revelation 21:4, which is quoted here in this book, *Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand!* [Read it from paragraph 6 on page 303.] This illustration [on page 302] gives you an idea of what it will be like when 'God wipes away all tears from our eyes.' This book offers convincing proof that this promise will be fulfilled in the very near future. If you would like to read it, this is your copy."

6 If you find interest, you will eventually want to direct attention to the book *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life* and use it to start a study. You will surely find much joy in helping "the inexperienced ones understand."—Ps. 119:130.

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OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

March 1996 For United States of America Vol. 39, No. 3

Bless Jehovah "All Day Long"

1 Psalm 145:2 contains a promise that King David made to Jehovah: "All day long I will bless you, and I will praise your name to time indefinite, even forever." We too have reason to bless and praise our heavenly Father! But how can we imitate David's example in exalting Jehovah's sovereignty "all day long"?

2 **Fill Our Hearts With Appreciation for Jehovah:** Regular study of God's Word deepens our gratitude for what Jehovah has done, is doing, and will yet do for us. As we grow in appreciation for his marvelous acts, we will find ourselves bubbling over about his goodness. (Ps. 145:7) We will eagerly praise Jehovah on every appropriate occasion.

3 **Praise Jehovah in Daily Conversation:** When conversing with neighbors, schoolmates, workmates, and others we contact daily, we may find opportunities to share our hope with them. A neighbor may express concern about crime in the community; a schoolmate may be anxious about drug abuse or immorality; a workmate may state an opinion about some political issue. We can point to the principles and promises in God's Word that show the proper course to take now and the eventual remedy for these problems. Such words spoken at the "right time" can be a blessing!—Prov. 15:23.

4 **Speak About Jehovah Full-Time:** The person with deep appreciation for Jehovah *wants* to share the good news with as many others as possible. (Ps. 40:8-10) In this regard we should ask ourselves, 'Am I doing all that my circumstances will allow?' Many have found that with some reasonable adjustments, they have been able to become regular pioneers. If present circumstances do not allow for that, can we enroll as auxiliary pioneers? Since the upcoming Memorial season is a time for expanded activity, the months of March and April would be a fine time to increase our service by auxiliary pioneering.

5 **Help New Ones to Join Us in Blessing Jehovah:** The celebration of the Memorial of Jesus' death always reminds us of reasons to be thankful to Jehovah and to praise His name. This is an especially good time to encourage our Bible students to join us in speaking publicly about Jehovah's kingship. Urge them to reflect prayerfully on what is stated in paragraphs 7-9 on pages 173-5 in the book *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life*. If they qualify, they have no reason to hold back just because they lack experience. Capable publishers are available to show them how the Kingdom-preaching work is done. If new ones can muster up boldness to speak the good news, they can be confident that Jehovah will help them.—Acts 4:31; 1 Thess. 2:2.

6 We bring eternal benefits to ourselves as well as to others when we seek to bless Jehovah all day long.

Benefit From the Theocratic Ministry School for 1996—Part 3

1 The apostle Paul wanted his brothers to pray in his behalf so that he might acquire the ability to speak the good news with boldness. (Eph. 6: 18-20) We desire to cultivate that same ability. To that end, we appreciate the help provided by the Theocratic Ministry School, in which qualified meeting attenders are encouraged to enroll.

2 As students, we receive personalized counsel to help us improve our speaking and teaching abilities. (Prov. 9:9) We can also benefit from listening to the counsel other students receive, applying what we learn to ourselves. When preparing an assignment, we should study the source material carefully to make sure that our explanation of it is accurate. The main points and the scriptures that we use should fit in with the development of the overall theme. If the assignment involves another person, it should be rehearsed well in advance of being presented in the school. As we make progress, an effort should be made to speak extemporaneously, using notes instead of a manuscript.

3 All who have assignments in the school should arrive early, give the school overseer their Speech Counsel slip, and sit near the front of the hall. Sisters should let the school overseer know in advance what their setting is and whether they will stand or sit for their part. Cooperating in these ways contributes to a smooth program and helps those caring for the platform to get everything ready beforehand.

4 **Preparing Assignment No. 2:** One purpose of the Bible reading is to help the student improve his ability to read. How can this best be achieved? Reading the material aloud over and over again is the best way to master it. To learn the meaning and proper pronunciation of any unfamiliar words, the student should look them up in a dictionary. This may also require becoming acquainted with the meaning of the pronunciation symbols used in the dictionary.

5 The *New World Translation* renders aid in pronouncing proper names and uncommon words that are found in the Bible. It does this by breaking them down into syllables and providing accent marks. (See *"All Scripture Is Inspired of God and Beneficial,"* pages 325-6, paragraphs 27-8.) As a rule, the syllable preceding the accent mark receives the major stress. If the accented syllable ends in a vowel, the vowel is long in its pronunciation. If a syllable ends in a consonant, the vowel in that syllable is short. (Compare Sa'lu with Sal'lu.) To prepare for their Bible reading assignments, some brothers listen to the Society's audiocassettes.

6 Parents can assist their young children to prepare the reading assignment. This may include listening when the child is rehearsing and then giving him helpful suggestions for improvement. The allotted time allows for a brief introduction and an appropriate conclusion that makes application of key points. Thus the student develops his ability to speak extemporaneously.

7 The psalmist prayerfully requested: "O Jehovah, may you open these lips of mine, that my own mouth may tell forth your praise." (Ps. 51:15) May our participation in the Theocratic Ministry School help us to satisfy this same desire.

SERVICE MEETINGS FOR MARCH

Week Starting March 4

Song 1

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.*

15 min: "Bless Jehovah 'All Day Long.'" Questions and answers. Read paragraphs 2-5 as time permits. Give positive encouragement for the auxiliary and regular pioneer work.

20 min: "Knowledge of the True God Leads to Life." Review suggested presentations. Have one or two demonstrations. Offer some examples of how we can tactfully make the householders aware of their opportunity to contribute toward the worldwide work.

Song 78 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting March 11

Song 164

10 min: Local announcements. Accounts report.

20 min: "Benefit From the Theocratic Ministry School for 1996—Part 3." Talk by school overseer. Encourage all who can to enroll and faithfully fulfill their assignments. Clearly explain the rules for pronouncing Bible names, as found in the *"All Scripture"* book, pages 325-6, paragraphs 27-8. Also explain that the "ch" combination in names is pronounced hard, like "k." (Except in Rachel, where "ch" is soft.) Illustrate the rules by playing a portion of Luke 3:23-38 from the Society's audiocassette, having the audience follow along in their Bible.

15 min: Do Things Together as a Family. Father talks to his family informally about the need for togetherness, based on the September 1, 1993, *Watchtower,* pages 16-19. Concentrate on the family study and the evangelizing work. Point out how modern families are falling apart because they spend little time together and have practically nothing in common. Studying God's Word and sharing in the ministry together is a blessing to the Christian family. Stress need for the father to organize these things well and for the mother to cooperate. Children should take an interest in spiritual activities, working closely with parents. Family will be united and will be fortified to cope with increasing pressures toward worldliness.

Song 211 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting March 18

Song 6

10 min: Local announcements. Those conducting studies should encourage new ones who are progressing well in their Bible study to reach out to become unbaptized publishers. Parents can also help their children to become publishers. Review recommended procedure outlined in *Organized to Accomplish Our Ministry,* pages 97-100.

15 min: Review Highlights of the *1996 Yearbook of Jehovah's Witnesses.* Family group discuss some of the interesting features about our worldwide activity covered on pages 3-5 and 33. They agree that together each day they will try to read a few pages of the *Yearbook* after they consider the designated Bible text in *Examining the Scriptures Daily.*

20 min: "Help Others to Acquire the Knowledge That Leads to Life." Review presentations suggested for use on return visits. Include one or two demonstrations. Stress goal of starting studies.

Song 130 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting March 25

Song 5

15 min: Local announcements. Review "Memorial Reminders." Explain why it is important to attend. (See the February 15, 1985, *Watchtower,* pages 18-20.) Review plans to assist elderly, infirm, and new ones to be present. Discuss arrangements for expanded field service activity during this coming week. Also, review the article, "Where Hospitality Is Shown to Strangers," on page 32 of the September 22, 1995, issue of *Awake!*

15 min: Question Box. Talk by an elder. Discuss reasons that prompt us to be generous, as outlined in the January 15, 1992, *Watchtower,* pages 16-17.

15 min: "Preparation—Key to Success." Questions and answers. Mention that we will be offering *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* during April and May. Make preparations now by ordering extra copies, obtaining subscription blanks, and making plans to support congregation arrangements for Magazine Day activity.

Song 7 and concluding prayer.

QUESTION BOX

- Is it appropriate to contribute for transportation that is provided by others?

Some of us have circumstances that require us to depend on others for assistance in regularly attending the meetings and sharing in field service. Many brothers and sisters kindly go out of their way and lovingly use their time, vehicles, and other resources to provide transportation for us. Although they may have to get ready earlier than they would otherwise and they are delayed in returning home, they provide the transportation with a willing spirit.

As in every other aspect of our Christian ministry, the principle found at Galatians 6:5 applies: "Each one will carry his own load." Therefore, if someone regularly provides transportation for us, we should show our appreciation not only by our words but also, if we possibly can, by a reasonable contribution to help care for the expenses involved.—Matt. 7:12; 1 Cor. 10:24.

Even if the person who is using his vehicle does not ask for financial assistance and does not appear to be in need of such, the sincere offer of a contribution is always appreciated. The driver may decline to accept anything; and, of course, that should be a decision for him to make. But it is proper for you to make the offer. If you are unable to contribute anything at the moment, you can keep it in mind; you may be able to offer something extra the next time you accept a ride.—Luke 6:38.

It is very loving for those who have vehicles to provide transportation for others who might otherwise be unable to attend meetings or share in the field ministry. (Prov. 3:27) At the same time, it is also loving for those who benefit from such kindness to express their thanks by contributing in accord with their circumstances.—Col. 3:15.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Literature offer for **March:** *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life.* **April and May:** Individual copies of both *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* For territory that is covered frequently, any appropriate brochure may also be used. Where interest is found on return visits, subscriptions may be offered. **June:** *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life.*
- The presiding overseer or someone designated by him should audit the congregation's accounts on March 1 or as soon as possible thereafter. Make announcement to the congregation when this has been done.
- As announced in the January 1996 issue of *Our Kingdom Ministry,* the special public talk for the Memorial season this year will be presented in most congregations on Sunday, April 21. The talk is entitled "Remaining Blameless Amid a Crooked Generation." A special effort should be made to invite those who attend the Memorial on April 2.
- Congregations may now begin submitting requests for the videocassettes *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life* (Volumes 2-6) in American Sign Language. They will appear as "Pending" on congregation packing lists until the videocassettes are available. Efforts will be made to ship each videocassette in time for the material contained in it to be considered at the Congregation Book Study.
- The dates for the first Long Beach, California, district convention have been changed from May 31–June 2 to August 9-11, 1996.

CONGREGATION BOOK STUDY

Schedule for congregation studies in the book *Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand!*

	From:	To:
March 4:	**p. 290, ¶ 14**	**p. 292, ¶ 24**
March 11:	**p. 292, ¶ 25**	**p. 296, ¶ 4**
March 18:	**p. 296, ¶ 5**	**p. 300, ¶ 18**
March 25:	**p. 301, ¶ 1**	**p. 305, ¶ 15**

DECEMBER SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**175**	**123.1**	**75.3**	**52.7**	**5.0**
Pios.	**75,918**	**73.6**	**35.6**	**23.5**	**2.3**
Aux. Pios.	**23,334**	**56.0**	**27.7**	**14.5**	**1.2**
Pubs.	**810,251**	**9.4**	**5.9**	**3.6**	**0.4**
TOTAL	**909,678**		Baptized: **2,933**		

Memorial Reminders

The following are matters that need attention before the Memorial observance on Tuesday, April 2:

- Everyone, including the speaker, should be informed of the exact time and place for the celebration.
- The appropriate type of bread and wine should be obtained and made ready.—See the February 15, 1985, *Watchtower,* page 19.
- A suitable table, a tablecloth, plates, and glasses should be brought to the hall in advance and put in place.
- The Kingdom Hall or other place of meeting should be thoroughly cleaned ahead of time.
- Attendants and servers should be selected and instructed in advance about the proper procedure and their duties.
- Arrangements should be made to serve any of the anointed who are infirm and unable to be present.
- When more than one celebration is scheduled in the same Kingdom Hall, there should be good coordination between congregations so as to avoid unnecessary congestion in the lobby, entryway, public sidewalks, and parking lot.

Preparation—Key to Success

What makes preaching Work easier ? Pkc...

¹ Advance preparation for the ministry will help to overcome any hesitancy one might feel about sharing in the field service. As you approach the doors, you will know what you want to say to the householders. You will not have to be apprehensive about the challenges that might be encountered. Upon returning home from the service, you will feel encouraged, knowing that you put forth a good effort in the ministry. Yes, thorough preparation is the key to sharpening our preaching and teaching skills.

² Paul emphasized preparedness by urging us to have our "feet shod with the equipment of the good news of peace." (Eph. 6:15) This includes preparing our mind and heart as well as acquiring a positive outlook and a willing attitude. When we are prepared to share the truth with others, our labor will be rewarded with Kingdom fruitage, making us happy. —Acts 20:35.

³ **How to Prepare for the Preaching Work:** We should select a presentation that we feel comfortable with, perhaps from among those suggested in the *Reasoning* book or those found on the last page of *Our Kingdom Ministry.* ③ Give careful thought to the scripture you plan to use, determining what words or phrase you are going to emphasize to make your main point stand out. There is no need to memorize the presentation; rather, it is best to get the idea in mind, put it in your own words, and express it in a manner that you think will appeal to your listener. next step ?

⁴ Look over the publication you plan to offer, and pick out some interesting talking points. Select something you feel will be of interest to people in your territory. Give thought to how you might adjust your presentation for different householders—a man, a woman, an older person, or a youth. why

⁵ Have you tried holding practice sessions? Get together with family members or other publishers to discuss what presentations might be effective, and then rehearse them aloud so that all will have them well in mind. Try to simulate actual situations and objections that could be encountered in the territory. Such practice will improve your fluency in speaking, increase your effectiveness in preaching, and build your confidence.

⁶ In addition to preparing and practicing your presentation, you should also ask yourself, 'Is the clothing that I plan to wear suitable for the ministry? Do I have what I need in my book bag, including the literature that I plan to use? Is it in good condition? Do I have my *Reasoning* book, tracts, house-to-house records, and a pencil?' Thoughtful planning in advance will contribute to a more productive day in service.

⁷ Once we have done the best that we can to prepare ourselves, we should pray for Jehovah's spirit to help us to be successful. (1 John 5:14, 15) Giving careful attention to preparation will result in our finding greater joy in our work, as we 'fully accomplish our ministry.'—2 Tim. 4:5.

order extra mag for April & May.

Hope of mankinds Jubilee song ?

Knowledge of the True God Leads to Life

1 "This means everlasting life," said Jesus in prayer to his Father, "their taking in knowledge of you, the only true God." (John 17:3) What a generous reward that is! By using the publication *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life,* we can help others learn what they need to do to live forever. What can we say to arouse their interest and prompt them to want to read the *Knowledge* book?

2 ***You might use a presentation that features the Bible as a practical source of guidance, by saying:***

■ "We are discussing with our neighbors where to find a practical source of guidance for coping with the problems of life. In the past many people first consulted the Bible. But now people's attitudes have changed; many are skeptical about the Bible, viewing it simply as a book written by men. What is your opinion? [Allow for response.] There is a very good reason why it can be said that the Bible is practical for our day. [Read 2 Timothy 3:16, 17.] Bible principles apply just as much now as they did when God inspired the writing of the Bible." Turn to page 16 in the *Knowledge* book, and briefly comment on the practical guidance found in Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Read the quote found in paragraph 11 or the one in paragraph 13. Offer the book, and arrange to return to answer the question, How can we personally benefit from the knowledge contained in the Bible?

3 ***Since prayer is a topic of interest for many people, you might like to discuss it by asking:***

■ "With all the challenges we must face in modern-day life, do you feel that prayer can be of real help to us? [Wait for a response.] Many feel that they have drawn close to God by praying to him and that doing so has given them inner strength, which is just what the Bible promises. [Open the *Knowledge* book to page 156, and read Philippians 4:6, 7.] Even so, a person may feel his prayers sometimes go unanswered. This chapter discusses 'How You Can Draw Close to God.' [Offer the book, and mention the donation arrangement for the worldwide work.] This chapter also explains how we can listen to God, since communication with him is not one-sided. We can discuss that when I come next time."

4 ***Would you like to try a direct approach to start a study? Here is one that may work for you:***

■ "We are offering a free home Bible study course. Have you ever taken a Bible course before? [Allow for response.] Let me show you the study aid that we use." Display the *Knowledge* book, turn to page 3 so that the householder can see the table of contents, and ask, "Have you ever wondered what the Bible has to say about these subjects?" Turn to the chapter about which the most interest is shown, and read the subheadings. Explain that you would like to demonstrate briefly how we cover this information in our study course. Whether a study is started or not, leave the book if the person promises to read it.

5 Today multitudes of people are responding to the accurate knowledge of the true God. (Isa. 2:2-4) It is our privilege to help as many as possible to learn about Jehovah and be led to life. —1 Tim. 2:4.

Help Others to Acquire the Knowledge That Leads to Life

1 The apostle Paul explained that it is 'God's will that all sorts of men should come to an accurate knowledge of the truth.' (1 Tim. 2:4) How can we help others to take in that knowledge? One way is by making return visits on persons whose interest has been aroused by means of the book *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life.* This publication presents Bible truth in clear, simple, well-chosen words. By studying it, people of all sorts can be led to life. What can we say that will encourage others to study it with us?

2 ***For those who showed an interest in the Bible as a practical guide, you could return to offer a study, perhaps saying:***

■ "When I was here before, we discussed why we can trust the Bible as a practical source of guidance. Because of its being inspired by God, the Bible is also a sure source of comfort and hope, even as one of Christ's apostles stated. [Read Romans 15:4.] At the end of our last conversation, I raised the question, How can we personally benefit from the knowledge contained in the Bible?" Read paragraph 18 on page 11 in the *Knowledge* book. Point out that Jehovah's Witnesses are conducting some five million Bible studies worldwide, helping people everywhere to take in the knowledge that leads to everlasting life. Offer a brief demonstration of how a study is conducted, using the first five paragraphs in chapter 1.

3 ***If prayer was the topic you initially discussed with someone, you might try this approach in an effort to start a study:***

■ "I hope you enjoyed the information about prayer that we discussed from the book *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life.* I promised to come back and consider with you how those who pray to God can, in turn, listen to him. Notice what is stated on page 158. [Read paragraph 18.] Thus, by personally studying the Bible, we are listening to what God has to say to us. Doing that draws us closer to him and helps us to deal with the day-to-day problems about which we pray. It would be my pleasure to study the Bible with you." If the person is willing, begin with the first chapter of the *Knowledge* book.

4 ***If you used the direct approach to start a study, you might say this to follow up the initial discussion:***

■ "I made a special effort to stop by again because I wanted to tell you more about our free Bible study program. I left with you a copy of this book, *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life,* which is the study aid that we use. Notice how it encourages us to consider God's Word. [Read paragraph 23 on page 22.] If you would please get your copy of the book, perhaps we can continue studying where we left off the last time." If a study was not started on the initial call, you might say: "Perhaps this would be a good time for me to demonstrate how we study the Bible." After considering a few paragraphs, arrange a definite time to return for the next study.

5 Using the *Knowledge* book effectively will enable us to spread about accurate knowledge for the blessing of others. (Prov. 15:7) Such knowledge will bring delight to those whose hearts are right, and it will be a powerful incentive for them to live in harmony with Jehovah's righteousness, leading eventually to everlasting life.

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OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

April 1996 For United States of America Vol. 39, No. 4

Render Sacred Service Day and Night

1 An extraordinary privilege has been extended to us. It is that of being witnesses of Jehovah. We are part of the worldwide organization of evangelizers being used by Jehovah to accomplish the greatest Kingdom-proclamation work ever undertaken! (Mark 13:10) In view of the urgency of our times, are we sharing in this work to the fullest extent possible?

2 We do not know how many will eventually respond to our preaching. Jehovah assures us that it will be "a great crowd," all of whom are identified by their "rendering him sacred service day and night." (Rev. 7:9, 15) The over five million Witnesses who are already busy in God's service are not simply interested listeners, nor are they just meeting attenders. They are workers who proclaim the good news worldwide!

3 Every day, there are opportunities to praise Jehovah, either in field service or informally. Think of the grand witness that could be given if each one of us took the initiative to share the truth with just one person each day. Our appreciation for Jehovah should move us to speak about him with enthusiasm. —Ps. 92:1, 2.

4 **Help Others to Render Sacred Service:** Jehovah continues to bless us with increase. (Hag. 2:7) During the past service year in the United States, an average of 568,480 home Bible studies were conducted each month. Our goal in studying with these people is to help them become Jesus' disciples. (Matt. 28:19, 20) Many of them have already made fine progress by regularly attending the meetings. They have started speaking to their acquaintances "about the magnificent things of God" that they have learned. (Acts 2:11) Can they now be invited to participate in the public ministry?

5 During April we should make a special effort to invite new ones who qualify, to join us in the field service. Has your student expressed a desire to do this? If so, does he meet the Scriptural requirements? (See *Our Ministry* book, pages 97-9.) When the student desires to share in the field service, discuss his prospects with the presiding overseer, who will arrange for two elders to examine the matter. If the student qualifies to be accepted as an unbaptized publisher, invite him to join you in the field. Service overseers and book study conductors should especially be aware of assisting those who might qualify to begin publishing in April.

6 Parents might consider whether their children qualify to become unbaptized publishers. (Ps. 148:12, 13) If your child desires to express himself in Kingdom service and he is of good conduct, you may approach one of the elders on the service committee to discuss the situation. After meeting with you and the child, two elders will determine whether he is qualified to be counted as a publisher. There is special cause for rejoicing when children join us in praising God!

7 Only Jehovah is worthy of our sacred service. (Luke 4:8) May each of us use our wonderful privilege to praise him "very much."—Ps. 109:30; 113:3.

Times Have Changed

1 The Bible tells us that "the scene of this world is changing." (1 Cor. 7:31) How true that is today! Even in our lifetime, we have seen drastic changes in the thinking and conduct of people on every level of human society. If we are to be successful in reaching them with the Kingdom message, our approach must keep up with the changing times. We want to present the good news in such a way that it interests people and reaches their hearts.

2 Years ago, in many lands the witness work was different because, for the most part, people lived more tranquil lives, and they felt secure. Religion held a sacred place in their lives. The Bible was highly regarded. In those days witnessing often involved refuting arguments on doctrinal issues. Today, people's lives are in turmoil. Religion is ridiculed. Few have faith in the Bible. And for many, the theory of evolution has destroyed faith in God.

3 One traveling overseer observed: "Now, it seems, there are so many problems and difficulties in people's lives that we have to teach them how to live." The immediate concerns of people naturally revolve around themselves, their families, and their anxieties. These are the things that they talk about most when they get together. We need to keep that in mind in our witnessing work.

4 **God's Kingdom Is the Only Sure Hope for the Future:** Most people have little confidence in human government. They feel that there is no prospect for seeing a better world in their lifetime. False religion has failed to give them any basis for hope. That is why the greatest need of mankind is to hear the good news about God's Kingdom. Show how it will ultimately provide the solutions to all of the problems confronting mankind.

5 **The Bible Is the Only Reliable Source of Guidance:** Today's masses have been misguided by leaders who rely upon human wisdom and worldly philosophies. People have yet to realize that "it does not belong to man who is walking even to direct his step." (Jer. 10:23) The most valuable lesson they can learn is that they must 'trust in Jehovah with all their heart and not lean upon their own understanding.' (Prov. 3:5) While the times have changed, the Bible has not. Hence, in our ministry we should always feature God's Word, teaching others to appreciate its inspired, divine guidance. (2 Tim. 3:16, 17) To fulfill that purpose, we must keep the importance of the Bible before the people by referring to it in our presentations, using it to answer their questions, and advocating the need to study it and apply its practical wisdom.

6 Even with today's changing times, our objectives in the ministry remain the same. We are to preach the good news of the Kingdom, build confidence in God's Word, and help others see the need to study the Bible with us. What we say must be relevant to the current needs of those to whom we witness. By doing this, we may become sharers of the good news with others and thus gain the most persons.—1 Cor. 9:19, 23.

SERVICE MEETINGS FOR APRIL

Week Starting April 1

Song 132

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* If applicable to the congregation, consider "Will You Be Working Unassigned Territory?" Mention any outstanding reports about your Memorial observance.

20 min: "Be 'Zealous for Fine Works' During April!" Question-and-answer coverage of paragraphs 1-10 by the service overseer. Explain (1) what is planned locally for expanded field service activity during April, (2) how all can be assisted to participate, and (3) how new and younger ones can be included.

15 min: "Search Out Those Who Are Rightly Disposed." Review suggested presentations, and then have two demonstrations showing how they can be used. As time permits, relate some of the suggestions for offering magazines, found in the September 1995 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 5. Include a reminder to mention that we accept contributions to advance the worldwide work.

Song 20 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting April 8

Song 72

15 min: Local announcements. Accounts report; mention donation acknowledgments received from the Society. Discuss practical ways we can help new ones who attended the Memorial to make further spiritual progress. Review April 1, 1991, *Watchtower,* pages 9-12.

15 min: "Render Sacred Service Day and Night." Questions and answers. Read paragraphs 5 and 6.

15 min: "Be 'Zealous for Fine Works' During April!" Question-and-answer coverage of paragraphs 11-15. Encourage all to analyze their personal circumstances and search out ways to increase their support for the field ministry.

Song 113 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting April 15

Song 133

10 min: Local announcements. Remind audience about the special public talk on April 21, entitled "Remaining Blameless Amid a Crooked Generation." Encourage putting forth an extra effort to assist everyone to attend.

15 min: "Times Have Changed." Questions and answers. Emphasize presenting the Kingdom message in a way that meets the most pressing needs of the people. Suggest some family and social issues that are on the minds of many people, as noted in the January 1, 1994, *Watchtower,* pages 22-3.

20 min: "Faith Follows the Thing Heard." Discuss how magazine placements can be used to cultivate interest that can lead to Bible studies in the *Knowledge* book. Have two or three presentations demonstrated.

Song 204 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting April 22

Song 6

15 min: Local announcements. Review highlights of special talk given this past weekend. Discuss how this admonition should motivate interested ones to take a firm stand for true worship. Also, call attention to "Go On Increasing in Accurate Knowledge," and emphasize importance of attending Congregation Book Study regularly.

12 min: Question Box. A talk by an elder. Explain why brothers conducting the meetings should avoid undue familiarity by calling on individuals, using only their first names.

18 min: Discussion between elder and ministerial servant of article entitled "Godly Families of the Past—A Pattern for Our Day," found on pages 20-3 of the September 15, 1995, issue of *The Watchtower*. Make practical application to benefit families locally.

Song 143 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting April 29

Song 144

12 min: Local announcements. Some describe Jehovah's Witnesses as a "sect" or "cult," misleading others about our activities and objectives. Using the *Reasoning* book, page 202, briefly explain how to refute this charge.

15 min: Giving Even Coverage to Our Territory. Talk by service overseer. Scattered or distant areas may rarely be worked. Some may purposely avoid working in localities where people are affluent or strongly religious. Business territories may be neglected. Some publishers may regularly request territories they personally prefer rather than those currently needing coverage. Encourage all to cooperate with efforts to cover unworked territories. The summer months usually provide a good opportunity to work distant rural areas; perhaps car groups can be organized. Make sure the territory is thoroughly covered, including not-at-homes, before it is returned. Offer other practical suggestions showing how all can assist in giving the best coverage to your territory.

18 min: Offer *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* During May. Feature individual copies. In territory that is covered frequently, offer any appropriate brochure. Keep a record of all placements, with the goal of establishing a magazine route. Where there is sustained interest, subscriptions may be offered. Emphasize the far-reaching benefits of magazine distribution as one of the most effective means of getting the Kingdom message to the public. Make sure we have a supply when we go in service; offer them at every opportunity. Personal arrangements for a weekly Magazine Day are a good way to increase placements. Store-to-store work and street witnessing with magazines are also productive. Follow up interest with return visits that are designed to start studies, using the *Knowledge* book. Have one or two brief demonstrations offering the current issues, perhaps using presentations found in the September 1995 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 3, paragraphs 3-5; read paragraph 6.

Song 195 and concluding prayer.

'Go On Increasing in Accurate Knowledge'

Accurate knowledge of God leads to everlasting life. (John 17:3) We should be doing all we can to increase in accurate knowledge about Jehovah. (Col. 1:9, 10) Starting on April 29, we will study the book *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life* at the Congregation Book Study. Not only will our own understanding of God's Word be enhanced but we will also be better equipped to teach it to others. You and your family will be blessed if you prepare in advance, attend and participate each week, and use that information in the ministry.

CONGREGATION BOOK STUDY

Schedule for congregation studies in the book *Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand!*

	From:	To:
April 1:	**p. 305, ¶ 1**	**p. 308, ¶ 12**
April 8:	**p. 309, ¶ 13**	**p. 311, ¶ 23**
April 15:	**p. 312, ¶ 24**	**p. 315, ¶ 5**
April 22:	**p. 316, ¶ 6**	**p. 319, ¶ 19**

Schedule for congregation studies in the book *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life.*

April 29: **Chapter 1**

Be "Zealous for Fine Works" During April!

[1] Last spring an unprecedented witness was given when millions of copies of *Kingdom News* No. 34 were distributed worldwide. Congregation publishers and pioneers alike zealously shared in this stimulating work. Were you among them? If you were, no doubt you thoroughly enjoyed having a part in that remarkable campaign. Now you may be wondering, What 'fine work' is in store for us this year?—Titus 2:14.

[2] During April and early May, we will have the pleasure of distributing a special edition of the *Awake!* magazine, the April 22, 1996, issue, featuring "When Wars Will Be No More." Since this subject will appeal to a great many householders, we will endeavor to give the magazine the widest possible distribution. In view of the importance of the information it contains, this issue of *Awake!* should be featured during April and into May, until supplies are exhausted.

[3] **Our Goal—Participation by All Publishers:** It would truly be encouraging if every publisher in this country could have a share in the preaching work during April. With the Memorial of Christ's death fresh in mind, we will surely want to show our appreciation for God's goodness by offering a direct "sacrifice of praise" in the field ministry.—Heb. 13:15. Lead - How apply?

[4] A diligent effort should be made to discern the needs of every member of the congregation so that all can have a zealous share in the ministry during April. (Rom. 15:1) Book study conductors should be fully aware of the circumstances of those in their groups and offer practical help when necessary. Does anyone need transportation? Who can provide it? Are some timid or self-conscious? Can more experienced publishers work along with them? What about shut-ins or those who are ill? Could they engage in telephone witnessing, in letter writing, or in some other productive activity? meetings for field service? [Sun. 12:20

TUES - HENDRICKS

[5] Some who have become inactive have been receiving regular spiritual encouragement, and they may be motivated to engage in the preaching work once again. The campaign with the special *Awake!* will provide them with an excellent opportunity to become reactivated.

[6] **Train Young Ones to Take Part:** Many children of Jehovah's Witnesses have accompanied their parents from house to house for years, although they are not yet serving as unbaptized publishers. Is now the time for them to get started? Are they moved from the heart and ready to have a meaningful share in the house-to-house work? Family heads should use time during the family Bible study to help their qualified children prepare a presentation tailored to each one's age and ability. Older ones can choose a thought-provoking question with which to arouse the interest of the householder and then point out the answer in the magazine. Younger children can give an effective witness in just a few words. For example, they can encourage the householder to "read a special magazine that is being offered worldwide this month." As part of your family's preparation, be sure to include suggestions for overcoming common objections. You will find a number of good ideas in the *Reasoning* book. At mealtimes and on other appropriate occasions, encourage family members to relate the experiences they have had in field service.

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[7] **Qualified Bible Students Take Up the Work Jesus Did:** Jesus did not confine his teaching to giving instruction on doctrinal matters. He accompanied his students in the ministry and taught them how to preach. (Luke 8:1; 10:1-11) What is the situation today? More than half a million Bible studies are being conducted in the United States. No doubt, with appropriate encouragement many of these students could take the next step in their training and qualify to serve as unbaptized publishers in April.

How know of

[8] If you are conducting a Bible study, consider these questions: Is the student making progress, consistent with his age and ability? Has he begun to share his faith informally with others? Is he putting on "the new personality"? (Col. 3:10) Does he meet the qualifications for unbaptized publishers, outlined on pages 97 through 99 of the *Our Ministry* book? If you believe he is qualified, why not discuss the matter with him? Some students need little more than a direct invitation to share in the work. Of course, if the student is willing, it will first be necessary for the presiding overseer to arrange in the usual way for a discussion with two of the elders. On the other hand, something may be holding the student back. Perhaps one of the elders could accompany you on the Bible study and draw the student out as to his feelings toward the truth. After listening to what the student has to say, the elder may be able to provide practical suggestions, along with Scriptural help.

[9] **'Buy Out the Time' to Auxiliary Pioneer:** Each year during the Memorial season, gratitude for the ransom moves thousands to 'buy out' the time to be auxiliary pioneers. (Eph. 5:15-17) Although some sacrifices are needed, the rewards are great. A commendable number of youths take advantage of a break from school to auxiliary pioneer. Adults who work full-time use evenings and weekends to full advantage in this same activity. Thus, entire families have been known to auxiliary pioneer together! In some congregations most of the elders and ministerial servants and their wives have enrolled as auxiliary pioneers. Stimulated by their zealous example, others have followed suit, so

that a large percentage of the congregation serve as auxiliary pioneers in April.

[10] Whether you are able to auxiliary pioneer or not, look for ways to increase your service in the field during April. Set a personal goal for yourself, one that will require some effort to reach but that is attainable. Your desire to "spend and be completely spent" in Jehovah's service, according to your personal circumstances, will have his blessing.—2 Cor. 12:15. Read ?

[11] **Meetings for Field Service:** Meetings for field service should be arranged every day of the *Awake!* campaign, at a time that will allow for an early start in the ministry. Provision should also be made for evening witnessing. Most publishers will be engaging in field service on weekends, so congregations should schedule meetings for field service on Saturdays, both morning and afternoon, for the duration of the special *Awake!* distribution.

[12] Those who conduct meetings for field service should see to it that there is plenty of territory on hand. Territory that has not been worked recently should be covered first. However, unassigned territory that is cared for by the Society should not be worked without the Society's permission. Are you holding one or more personal territories that have not been covered recently? If you will need help in working them during the campaign, speak to the service overseer or to the brother caring for the territory and they will be happy to arrange for you to have some assistance.

[13] **How Many Magazines Will You Place?** That question is for each individual to answer. In determining how many magazines you can place during the campaign, consider the type of territory you will be working, your age, your health, the time you can devote to the work, and other factors. Note, however, the reminder that was given in the January 1, 1994, issue of *The Watchtower*: "As a suggestion, publishers may have a goal of, say, 10 magazines per month, depending on their circumstances; pioneers might strive for 90." Would a similar goal be realistic in your case?

[14] **Elders—Careful Planning Is Needed:** Insure that, if possible, all of the congregation's territory will be worked with the special issue of *Awake!* Careful attention should be given to working any business territory assigned to the congregation. Those who work it should be well prepared and neatly dressed. An elaborate presentation is not necessary. When approaching a businessman, you can say that you do not often meet businesspeople at home, so you are calling at his place of business to present an article that will surely be of interest to him. Then you can briefly share a specific point in the magazine. Street witnessing with magazines should also be properly organized within the congregation's territory. The most effective way to engage in street work is to take the initiative and approach passersby, rather than to wait for them to approach you. Since you will be in the public eye, you should be conscious of having a dignified appearance. There may be other places in your territory that could be worked during the campaign, such as airports, hospitals, parking lots, parks, and rest homes. The body of elders should determine what appropriate arrangements can be made for witnessing in these areas of your congregation's territory.

[15] Jehovah is a tireless worker. (John 5:17) He created the heavens and the earth as well as the plants and the animals; but he continued to work until he had created his crowning achievement on earth—man. The fact that we have life is a direct result of God's willingness to work. As "imitators of God," we should be moved by our love for him to be "zealous for fine works." (Eph. 5:1; Titus 2:14) Since Jehovah is worthy of receiving our very best effort and since the desire to obtain results is characteristic of one who is zealous, we should be interested in performing quality work in the ministry. Of course, Jehovah appreciates any sacrifice we make for him, and our work is never in vain. (1 Cor. 15:58) So, with grateful hearts, let us apply ourselves to zealous activity during April, confident of Jehovah's approval and blessing and of rich success!

NEW PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

- New Publications Available:

Does God Really Care About Us? —Laotian
Enjoy Life on Earth Forever! —Slovak
Good News—To Make You Happy —Vietnamese
Happiness—How to Find It —Persian
How to Start and Continue Bible Discussions —Samoan
Jehovah's Witnesses—Unitedly Doing God's Will Worldwide —Bulgarian, Czech
Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life —Amharic, Gujarati, Lingala, Tshiluba
Life—How Did It Get Here? By Evolution or by Creation? (Large size) —Albanian
Life in a Peaceful New World (Tract No. 15) —Haitian Creole
"Look! I Am Making All Things New" —Assyrian
Questions Young People Ask—Answers That Work —Gujarati
Sing Praises to Jehovah (Large size) —Tamil
The Divine Name That Will Endure Forever —Amharic
The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived —Punjabi
What Hope for Dead Loved Ones? (Tract No. 16) —Haitian Creole
When Someone You Love Dies —Amharic, Persian
Will This World Survive? (Tract No. 19) —Macedonian

- New Audiocassettes Available:

Doing What Is Right in Jehovah's Eyes (Drama, single cassette) —Dutch, French

- New Videocassettes Available:

Jehovah's Witnesses—The Organization Behind the Name —Albanian, Thai
The Bible—Mankind's Oldest Modern Book —Italian, Japanese

THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL REVIEW

Closed-book review on material covered in Theocratic Ministry School assignments for the weeks of January 1 to April 22, 1996. Use a separate sheet of paper to write down answers to as many of the questions as you can in the time allotted.

[Note: During the written review, only the Bible may be used to answer any question. References that follow the questions are for your personal research. Page and paragraph numbers may not appear on all references to *The Watchtower*.]

Answer each of the following statements True or False:

1. The purpose of the Kingdom Ministry School is to prepare men for ordination. [*jv* p. 231 par. 3]
2. Since King Ahaz was zealous for true worship, it was not difficult for his son Hezekiah to serve Jehovah. [*it*-1 p. 61 par. 13]
3. Although the Mosaic Law passed away, the Bible does not give any indication that the Ten Commandments were included in what came to an end. [*rs* p. 348 par. 2]
4. The position we take on blood transfusions is based on our superior medical knowledge. [*jv* p. 186 par. 2]
5. The covenant mentioned at Jeremiah 31: 31, 33 refers to the covenant for a Kingdom that Jesus makes with his anointed followers. [*si* p. 129 par. 38]
6. The book of Lamentations is composed of five lyric poems, four of which are acrostic. [*si* p. 130 par. 6]
7. Following his resurrection Jesus made various appearances—but only in the presence of his disciples. [*rs* p. 334 par. 2]
8. True Christians enter into God's rest by exercising faith in the sacrifice of Christ and by desisting from works in which they try to justify themselves. (Heb. 4:10) [*rs* p. 350 par. 1]
9. The parenthetical statement at Revelation 20:5, about "the rest of the dead" coming to life, refers to the earthly resurrection of other sheep. [*rs* p. 338 par. 2–p. 339 par. 2]
10. Jehovah's Witnesses see unmistakable evidence that the organization to which they belong is not of men but of God and that God's own Son, Jesus Christ, is directing it. [*jv* p. 235 par. 5]

Answer the following questions:

11. What was meant when *The Watchtower* of June 1, 1938, referred to, "The Society"? [*jv* p. 219 par. 2] JW's
12. Why did Jehovah's Witnesses in Germany refuse to say: *"Heil Hitler"*? [*jv* p. 196 par. 1] only Hail Jah.
13. What do we learn about Jehovah's qualities by reading the book of Lamentations? (Lam. 3:22, 23, 32) [*si* p. 132 pars. 13, 15]
14. What term is repeatedly used in reference to both Ezekiel and Jesus Christ? [*si* p. 133 par. 2] Son of man
15. Why is it reasonable to believe that those who are resurrected to life on earth will be judged on the basis of their future actions? (Rom. 6:7) [*rs* p. 338 par. 1]
16. How did Paul, Timothy, and Titus strengthen the congregations they served, thus setting an example for traveling overseers today? [*jv* p. 222 par. 1]
17. Why can we rightly state that the events associated with Christ's presence take place over a period of years? (Matt. 24: 37-39) [*rs* p. 341 par. 1] Ex of Noah
18. What belief engendered by the translation of Romans 13:1 in the *King James Version* led the Bible Students into not always maintaining strict neutrality back in 1918? [*jv* p. 191 pars. 3, 4]
19. Before the Treaty of Versailles was signed in June 1919, what did the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America proclaim? [*jv* p. 192 par. 3]
League as King of God

20. Why are Christians not under obligation to keep a weekly Sabbath day? (Rom. 10:4) [*rs* p. 345 pars. 2, 3] Part of Law done away

Provide the word(s) or phrase needed to complete each of the following statements:

21. Ebed-melech prefigured the O S, who will be preserved at Armageddon because they befriended and assisted the anointed of Christ's brothers. [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*82 10/1 p. 27 par. 11.]

22. The death of Jesus Christ is commemorated each year on Nisan 14, but it was not until 1938 that members of the great crowd were specifically invited to be present at the Memorial. [*jv* p. 242 par. 2, p. 243 par. 1]

23. The events recounted at Jeremiah 52:5-11 took place in 607 B.C.E. [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*88 4/1 p. 14 par. 18.]

24. When Revelation 1:7 states that following Christ's return "every eye will see him," reference is made, not to seeing sight, but to mental recognizing [*rs* p. 343 par. 2]

25. Following his resurrection Jesus did not always appear in the same body, perhaps to reinforce in the disciples' minds the fact that he was then a spirit, and so he was not immediately recognized even by his close associates. [*rs* p. 334 par. 5]

Select the correct answer in each of the following statements:

26. The failure of David's son (Absalom; Amnon; Amon) to control his sexual desires led him to violate his half sister Tamar. [*it*-1 p. 96 par. 3]

27. An important step in establishing a congregation structure in harmony with the apostolic pattern took place in (1879; 1886; 1895) when Brother Russell wrote about the need for (colporteurs; elders; servants to the brethren) to be selected in every company (congregation) to take oversight of the flock. [*jv* p. 206 par. 2]

28. Moral restraint did not pass away with the end of the Mosaic Law, which included the Ten Commandments, because under the Christian arrangement, (each community would develop its own set of moral standards; men should be guided only by their conscience; many of the moral standards of the Ten Commandments were restated in the Christian Greek Scriptures). [*rs* p. 349 par. 1]

29. Jehovah "fooled" Jeremiah in that He (tricked him into preaching a message of condemnation; used him to accomplish what he could not have done in his own strength; did not bring about the destruction that Jeremiah had prophesied). (Jer. 20:7) [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*89 5/1 p. 31.]

30. On April 23, 1900, the first branch office of the Watch Tower Society was established in (Australia; England; Germany). [*jv* p. 210 par. 3]

Match the following scriptures to the statements listed below:

Josh. 7:24, 25; Jer. 23:33; 32:9, 10; 1 Tim. 3:2, 3, 8; Heb. 10:23-25

31. Even when circumstances make it very difficult, Jehovah's Witnesses endeavor to attend their meetings regularly. [*jv* p. 236 par. 1] Heb 10:23,24

32. Disobeying Jehovah and deliberately covering over serious wrongdoing can bring about far-reaching and disastrous consequences. [*it*-1 p. 41 par. 2] Josh 7:2

33. Immoderate use of alcoholic beverages can disqualify a brother from enjoying privileges in the congregation. [*jv* p. 182 par. 3] 1 Tim 3:2,3,8

34. The weighty prophetic message from God's Word is heavy with doom, announcing Christendom's imminent destruction. [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*94 3/1 p. 12 pars. 18, 20.] Jer 23:33

35. When entering into business dealings with fellow worshipers of Jehovah, a written agreement can prevent misunderstandings that could arise at a later time. [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*95 5/1 p. 30.] Jer 32:9,10

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **April and May:** Individual copies of both *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* For territory that is covered frequently, any appropriate brochure may also be used. Where interest is found on return visits, subscriptions may be offered. **June:** *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life.* **July and August:** Any of the following 32-page brochures: *Does God Really Care About Us?*, *Enjoy Life on Earth Forever!*, *"Look! I Am Making All Things New,"* *Should You Believe in the Trinity?*, *The Government That Will Bring Paradise*, *What Is the Purpose of Life—How Can You Find It?*, and *When Someone You Love Dies.* Where appropriate, brochures such as *Our Problems—Who Will Help Us Solve Them?*, *Spirits of the Dead—Can They Help You or Harm You? Do They Really Exist?*, and *Will There Ever Be a World Without War?* may be offered.

■ Where practical, as daylight hours increase, elders should make arrangements for the congregation to spend more time in evening witnessing.

■ Beginning in April, district convention badge cards for 1996 in Chinese, English, French, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish, and Vietnamese will automatically be included with literature shipments. It will not be necessary to request these. Based on the size of each congregation, cards will be shipped in lots of 25. If additional badge cards are needed by the congregation, these should be requested on a Literature Request Form (S-14). It is necessary to request plastic badge card holders for any in the congregation who desire them.

■ An adjustment is being made in the procedure for replacing Pioneer Service Identification cards. From now on, replacement cards for pioneers who move, change their name, lose their card, or request a change of assignment will be supplied by the Society. Any blank cards the secretary may have on file should be disposed of. Name changes and reassignments will be handled in the normal manner, with the secretary noting the appropriate information on the back of the Congregation Report (S-1) for the month. Thereafter, the Society will forward to the congregation the new cards for the pioneers. These will generally come with the monthly statement. Any changes should be forwarded to the Society promptly so that our files can be kept accurate and current. Also, when a pioneer discontinues such service or is deleted, a copy of the S-206 form should be filled out and submitted to the Society without delay.

■ All inquiries relative to dates and locations of district conventions in other lands should be directed to the respective branch offices. Addresses of branch offices around the world are found on the last page of the *Yearbook.*

■ Braille editions of *The Watchtower* are now available in Korean and Portuguese.

Will You Be Working Unassigned Territory?

As outlined in the Society's letter of January 1, 1996, groups of publishers have been invited to assist in covering unassigned territory again this year. If you are part of a group specifically assigned by the Society to work in such territory, the following information will be helpful to you in making your plans: Rather than use booklets and brochures as the main offer, you may use the books *You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth*, *Life—How Did It Get Here? By Evolution or by Creation?*, *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived*, or *United in Worship of the Only True God.* If you do not have a supply of these books available, submit an order right away so that you will have what you need for working unassigned territory.

JANUARY SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**180**	**120.4**	**74.8**	**53.1**	**5.4**
Pios.	**75,040**	**75.5**	**36.4**	**24.9**	**2.4**
Aux. Pios.	**17,675**	**56.9**	**28.6**	**16.0**	**1.4**
Pubs.	**812,271**	**9.0**	**5.6**	**3.6**	**0.4**
TOTAL	**905,166**		Baptized: **2,194**		

QUESTION BOX

■ What is the proper use of the terms "brother" and "sister"?

When used in a literal sense, the terms "brother" and "sister" refer to individuals who have the same parents. This natural relationship usually creates a warm attachment, and the closeness these individuals experience is further enhanced by social, environmental, and emotional ties.

Jesus taught his disciples to address Jehovah in prayer as "Our Father." The use of that expression implies that as Christians, we are all part of a close family circle where we enjoy a rich spiritual relationship. This was further emphasized by Jesus when he told his followers that "all you are brothers."—Matt. 6:9; 23:8.

Because of our close spiritual ties within God's household, we address one another as "Brother" and "Sister," particularly at congregation meetings. During these spiritual occasions, the one presiding over the meeting recognizes baptized individuals by using the expression "brother" or "sister" followed by the last name of the person being addressed.

What if an unbaptized person wishes to participate in the meetings? When a person has been associated with Jehovah's people for some time and is approaching dedication, considering himself to be one of Jehovah's Witnesses, there would be no objection to prefacing the last name with "Brother" or "Sister." This would especially be true if the individual has become an unbaptized publisher.

On the other hand, interested persons who have only recently begun to attend our meetings have not yet taken the steps that would identify them as part of God's household. These individuals would not be addressed as "Brother" or "Sister," since the spiritual relationship of God's family does not exist in their case. So during the meetings, we would address them more formally, using an appropriate title such as "Mr." with their last name.

Using the expressions "brother" and "sister" at our congregation meetings indicates a bond that is far closer and more precious than any indicated by the use of first names. It reminds us of the very blessed relationship we enjoy as a spiritual family under the one Father, Jehovah God. We are also reminded of the deep love and affection we have for one another.—Eph. 2:19; 1 Pet. 3:8.

Search Out Those Who Are Rightly Disposed

1 One purpose of the preaching work is to find those who are "rightly disposed for everlasting life." (Acts 13:48) Distribution of the *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines has proved to be an excellent way to accomplish this, as our journals make people aware of the Kingdom hope. We will be featuring the magazines during April. Hopefully, where interest is found, we can start new Bible studies in the book *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life*. Here are some suggestions that might work for you:

2 ***When using the April 1 "Watchtower," you might feature "Praise the King of Eternity!," which focuses on last year's district convention public discourse, and say:***

■ "Many people we talk to have faith in God. Others find it difficult to believe in him. How do you feel? [Allow for response.] We are surrounded by tangible evidence proving that there must be a God. [Read Psalm 104:24.] When we see a camera or a computer, we readily acknowledge that it must have been produced by an intelligent designer. Would it be reasonable to say that far more complex things, such as the earth and we humans, originated by chance?" Use a paragraph from the article to show a sound reason for believing in God. If interest is shown, offer the magazines.

3 ***The April 15 "Watchtower" features the article "Why True Worship Receives God's Blessing." Before presenting it, you could ask:***

■ "With the hundreds of religions existing in the world, do you think they could all be acceptable to God? [Allow for comment.] Jesus foretold that despite the claims of many religious persons, those not doing God's will would be rejected. [Read Matthew 7:21-23.] It is important that we identify the true religion taught by Jesus." Turn to the heading "What Fruitage Must True Religion Produce?," beginning on page 16, and discuss one example to illustrate the point.

4 ***When featuring the main topic in the April 22 "Awake!," "When Wars Will Be No More," you might consider saying:***

■ "In this century there have been hundreds of wars, including two world wars. Yet virtually all world leaders say they want peace. Everybody I know says the same thing. If everyone wants peace, why can't they achieve it? [Allow for response.] What do you feel is needed for us to see real peace on earth?" After householder's response, turn to pages 8 and 9 and read such texts as Psalm 46:8, 9. Using the pictures and scriptures quoted, show how God's Kingdom will bring worldwide peace that will last forever. Then ask if the householder wishes to read the magazine, and arrange to return.

5 ***If you find many who say they are busy, you might try this:***

■ "We are interested in helping people who live busy lives and who find little time to reflect on the spiritual side of life. Our journals, *The Watchtower* and *Awake!*, are designed to provide concise information about important issues that affect you and your family. I'd like to leave these copies for you to read."

6 Be sure to give those who accept the magazines an opportunity to contribute toward our worldwide work. They will certainly benefit from reading *The Watchtower* and *Awake!*, which bring "good news of something better."—Isa. 52:7.

"Faith Follows the Thing Heard"

1 When we find someone who is "rightly disposed for everlasting life," it is necessary to strengthen that person's faith in what he has heard. (Acts 13:48; Rom. 10:17) To that end, we should follow up magazine placements by returning to bring the latest issues and to converse more. Where there is genuine interest, subscriptions may be offered. However, have in mind the goal of starting a study in the book *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life*. Here are some suggestions that might be helpful:

2 ***When making a return visit where you discussed the article "Praise the King of Eternity!," you could begin this way:***

■ "When we last talked, we reviewed some of the overwhelming evidence that proves there is an almighty God. However, just being aware of his existence is not enough. We need to know his name. By what name do you call God? [Allow for response.] Millions of people simply call him 'Lord' or 'God,' which are impersonal titles. In addition, he wants us to know him by his name. [Read Psalm 83:18.] The Bible tells us much more about Jehovah God, as is explained in this book." Show the picture on page 29 of the *Knowledge* book, and read the caption. After you discuss the first three paragraphs in chapter 3, you will have started a study!

3 ***For those with whom you considered the article "Why Worldly Religion Will End," you may want to follow up the interest by saying:***

■ "After reading the article, you may have been impressed with the fact that we cannot view all religions in the same way. Both true religion and false religions exist. This raises the logical question, Whose worship does God accept? The answer was provided by Jesus, and it is highlighted in this book." Turn to chapter 5 in the *Knowledge* book, and read paragraph 4, including John 4:23, 24. Then ask, "Would you be willing to accept a free home Bible study?" If the response is positive, turn to chapter 1 and start the study.

4 ***If interest was shown in the April 22 "Awake!," when you return you might try this approach to start a study in the "Knowledge" book:***

■ "You may recall we had a conversation about our prospects for eventually seeing a world without war. It's hard to imagine what that would really be like. Here's one artist's conception of it. [Show the picture on pages 188-9 in the *Knowledge* book.] Wouldn't it be a pleasure to be able to enjoy these surroundings? [Turn to pages 4-5, show the picture, and read the box.] The title of this book is similar to Jesus' words found at John 17:3. [Read.] If I may, I'd like to demonstrate how this book can be used with your Bible to find that lifesaving knowledge." If the householder is willing, start the study in the first chapter.

5 ***If you contacted a person who was busy when you initially called, you might say this when you return:***

■ "I visited you recently and left copies of the *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. These journals build respect for the Bible and its moral guidance. Because I feel it is essential for everyone to understand God's Word, I came back to show you something that will help you to do that." Show the *Knowledge* book, and point to contents on page 3. Ask which chapter looks the most interesting, turn to it, and start the study.

6 Our joy will be great if we are able to 'open to others the door to faith' leading to everlasting life.—Acts 14:27; John 17:3.

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OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

May 1996 For United States of America Vol. 39, No. 5

Be Whole-Souled!

1 We have a multitude of reasons to be grateful to Jehovah. These include the things that he has done in the past, is doing right now, and will yet do for us in the future. What should our gratitude move us to do? A psalm of David answers: "I will bless Jehovah at all times; constantly his praise will be in my mouth." —Ps. 34:1.

2 The Bible clearly shows that we are commanded to preach. This is a work that we perform "whole-souled as to Jehovah." (Col. 3:23) How much will we do in the ministry if we are truly whole-souled? When we consider the love of Jehovah in our behalf, surely our hearts move us to have a devoted share in telling others about him and his precious purposes! We are moved to do what we can.

3 It would be reasonable to expect that a person who is whole-souled wants to keep his attention focused on sacred service. The psalmist, who obviously felt that way, declared: "Seven times in the day I have praised you." (Ps. 119:164) Those who share the psalmist's feelings seek to take advantage of opportunities to praise Jehovah. As their circumstances permit, they serve zealously to the extent possible.

4 **We Are Surrounded by Opportunities to Praise Jehovah:** We do not have to wait until we are sharing in the door-to-door work to preach the good news. Our workmates, schoolmates, relatives, and acquaintances all need to hear the Kingdom message. When traveling, we can start conversations that may lead to giving a witness to hotel personnel, restaurant workers, service station attendants, or taxi drivers. While at home, we may witness to neighbors or deliverymen. If we are hospitalized, there are nurses, doctors, and other patients to whom we can preach informally.

5 **Informal Witnessing Gets Results:** Two Witnesses were walking in a park one day and struck up a conversation with a young man who was strolling with his child. Eventually he and his wife embraced the truth. The young man later revealed that only a short time before he first met the two Witnesses, he had prayed to God, asking, 'If you exist, please let me know you.' He considers the encounter in the park to be Jehovah's answer to his prayer.

6 Those who are whole-souled in their desire to help others spiritually experience great joy. They know that such service, "with a complete heart," pleases Jehovah.—1 Chron. 28:9.

We Never Had It So Good Spiritually!

1 Most people yearn for the day when they can say, "We never had it so good!" In their mind, that day will come when they have an abundance of material things, allowing them to 'take their ease, eat, drink, and enjoy themselves.' (Luke 12:19) In contrast, right now we are able to say that in a spiritual sense, we are not lacking anything good. (Ps. 34:10) How is that possible?

2 Proverbs 10:22 declares that "the blessing of Jehovah—that is what makes rich." We who experience such divine favor can truly say that God "furnishes us all things richly for our enjoyment." (1 Tim. 6:17) This makes us the richest people on earth!

3 **Counting Our Blessings:** Few of us have an abundance of material things. Yet, we are blessed because we are not overly anxious about our daily necessities. Jehovah knows what things we need, and he promises to provide them. (Matt. 6:31-33) His assurance gives us peace of mind that is truly priceless.

4 Our spiritual blessings, however, are even greater. Our lives depend on spiritual food from Jehovah. (Matt. 4:4) Those who look to worldly sources for spiritual sustenance go hungry while we eat and drink to satisfaction. (Isa. 65:13) The 'faithful slave' gives us access to an inexhaustible supply of knowledge that leads to everlasting life.—Matt. 24:45; John 17:3.

5 Our precious worldwide brotherhood provides us with the warm fellowship of loving brothers and sisters living in every part of the earth. (John 13:35) The local congregation is a haven of peace, where we can find comfort and refreshment. The elders are keeping watch over our souls, helping us to cope with many kinds of problems. (Heb. 13:17) Our drawing close to our brothers results in an interchange of encouragement, strengthening us to persevere.—Rom. 1:11, 12.

6 Even our work is a blessing. Many secular jobs are tedious and unfulfilling. Sharing the good news brings joy to others and happiness to ourselves. (Acts 20:35) We are truly able to see good for all our hard work. —Eccl. 2:24.

7 Most of all, we have a marvelous hope for the future. (Rom. 12:12) We look forward to a perfect new world of righteousness, where we will live with our loved ones in happiness and peace forever! This hope is a treasure worth more than anything this world has to offer.—1 Tim. 6:19.

8 **How Can We Show Our Appreciation?** We can never repay Jehovah for what he has done for us. We can only express our appreciation by (1) thanking him every day for his undeserved kindness (Eph. 5:20), (2) demonstrating our love by being obedient (1 John 5:3), (3) sanctifying his name by preaching the good news (Ps. 83:18), and (4) supporting the Christian congregation by our wholehearted cooperation.—1 Tim. 3:15.

9 We have every reason to be the happiest people on earth. (Ps. 144:15b) May our attitude, conduct, and service reflect the joy we feel in our spiritual paradise. We never had it so good!

SERVICE MEETINGS FOR MAY

Week Starting May 6

Song 153

10 min: Local announcements. Review "What Are Your Plans for the Summer?"

15 min: "Be Whole-Souled!" Questions and answers. As time permits, consider "Points to Discuss as a Family," in the October 15, 1981, *Watchtower,* page 25.

20 min: "Speak Truth to Your Neighbor." Questions and answers. Review suggested presentations. Encourage new ones to share in magazine distribution, using brief presentations to get started. Have two demonstrations that include pointing out the statement on page 2 of *The Watchtower:* "Publication of *The Watchtower* is part of a worldwide Bible educational work supported by voluntary donations." We are pleased to accept modest donations from people who enjoy the magazines.

Song 148 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting May 13

Song 63

7 min: Local announcements. Accounts report.

18 min: "We Never Had It So Good Spiritually!" Questions and answers. Have two or three publishers, including a teenager, mention some of their blessings. Conclude by showing how increased appreciation moves us to zealous activity in sacred service.

20 min: "1996 'Messengers of Godly Peace' District Convention." Question-and-answer coverage of paragraphs 1-17. Read paragraphs 10-11, 16.

Song 193 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting May 20

Song 126

10 min: Local announcements. Review arrangements for field service activity during worldly holiday on May 27. Encourage all to share in magazine distribution.

15 min: "Keep On Speaking the Truth." Stress need to make return visits, with the goal of starting studies. Offer six-month subscriptions to those who show genuine interest. Have two brief demonstrations.

20 min: "1996 'Messengers of Godly Peace' District Convention." Question-and-answer coverage of paragraphs 18-24. Read paragraph 18. Review "District Convention Reminders."

Song 28 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting May 27

Song 121

5 min: Local announcements.

15 min: Offering *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life* During June. Service overseer first ~~discusses~~ why the *Knowledge* book was published. He then reviews some of its highlights with two or three capable publishers. Book answers questions about our future, human suffering, God's Kingdom, godly conduct, family life, and the benefits of prayer. Two different ones in group demonstrate ~~approach~~ that can be used to start a study on either the initial call or a return visit. Service overseer then covers following points. There is a need to conduct more effective Bible studies in a shorter period of time. This book was specially designed for that purpose. It presents the truth in a positive, concise manner. Questions on each paragraph, as well as at the end of every chapter, help us to focus on the main points. The book covers the answers to the questions asked of newly dedicated ones who wish to get baptized. Encourage all to work with the goal of starting studies in June.

10 min: Question Box. Read and discuss with audience.

15 min: "Are You Too Busy?" Questions and answers. As time permits, include comments from the June 8, 1990, *Awake!,* pages 14-16. Have one or two publishers briefly relate what they have done to cope successfully with a busy theocratic schedule.

Song 155 and concluding prayer.

CONGREGATION BOOK STUDY

Schedule for congregation studies in the book *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life.*

May 6:	**Chapter 2**
May 13:	**Chapter 3**
May 20:	**Chapter 4**
May 27:	**Chapter 5**

FEBRUARY SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**173**	**121.2**	**79.3**	**52.2**	**5.3**
Pios.	**74,698**	**73.9**	**38.5**	**24.1**	**2.4**
Aux. Pios.	**14,510**	**57.3**	**31.1**	**16.5**	**1.5**
Pubs.	**835,141**	**9.0**	**6.1**	**3.5**	**0.4**
TOTAL	**924,522**			Baptized: **2,081**	

What Are Your Plans for the Summer?

When we think of summer, we think of warm weather, arrangements to attend a district convention, and plans for a relaxing vacation or a pleasant visit with relatives and friends. When making your summer plans, here are a few reminders that may help you to keep Kingdom interests in first place:

- Make definite plans to attend the district convention. Arrange for your transportation and accommodations well in advance in order to avoid any problems.
- If you go away for a vacation, plan to attend the meetings of the local congregation and share in the ministry. Be sure to turn in your field service reports; if necessary, mail them to your congregation's secretary.
- A visit with relatives who are not in the truth may give you a chance to do some productive informal witnessing. Be sure to bring your Bible and a supply of literature.
- Have you thought about helping a nearby congregation that needs assistance in covering its territory? Talk to the elders or the circuit overseer to get information about the needs in your area.
- School vacations provide an excellent opportunity for young people to expand their service activity. Youths, can you enroll as auxiliary pioneers?
- With pleasant weather and longer daylight hours, you may find that you can get excellent results in the service by doing more evening witnessing, when many people are at home.
- Elders should be alert to keep congregation activities well organized, arranging for someone to care for the responsibilities assigned to those who will be away.

Remember that "the plans of the diligent one surely make for advantage." (Prov. 21:5) Plan to make the most of your summertime theocratic opportunities.

1996 "Messengers of Godly Peace" District Convention

[1] The district convention program this year will surely help us to maintain our godly peace, and it will explain our role in helping others to find such peace. As announced in the January 1996 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* the theme is "Messengers of Godly Peace." Have you made your plans so as not to miss any of the program?

[2] **A Three-Day Program:** We know you will thoroughly enjoy this year's convention and will return home with renewed vigor. (2 Chron. 7:10) This year we will again have a three-day program. Have you already made arrangements to get time off from secular work so that you can attend for the entire period? Some of the earlier conventions will be held before school is dismissed for the summer. If you have children of school age, have you respectfully informed their teachers that they will be absent on Friday for this important part of their religious training?

[3] The February 15, 1996, *Watchtower* lists the dates and locations for 198 conventions in the United States branch territory. By now the secretary of your congregation has informed you of the one to which you are assigned. In addition to English, there will be conventions in American Sign Language, Chinese, French, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese.

[4] The program will begin all three days at 9:30 a.m. and conclude on Sunday at approximately 4:00 p.m. Doors will open at 8:00 a.m. The only ones permitted to enter before then are those with work assignments, and these will not be allowed to save seats until the building opens for everyone. Will we demonstrate kindness to our older and infirm brothers by leaving the seats vacant in areas that are more convenient and comfortable? Remember that "love . . . does not look for its own interests." —1 Cor. 13:4, 5; Phil. 2:4.

[5] **Will You Be Sharpened?** After quoting Proverbs 27:17, "By iron, iron itself is sharpened," the August 15, 1993, *Watchtower* observed: "We are like instruments that need regular sharpening. Since expressing love for Jehovah and making decisions based on our faith means being different from the world, we constantly have to cut a different path, as it were, from the majority." How can we apply that counsel?

[6] We are and must remain different from the world. The constant effort to accomplish this has to be maintained if we are to be zealous for fine works. (Titus 2:14) That is why the *Watchtower* article quoted above went on to say: "When we are with others who love Jehovah, we sharpen one another—we incite one another to love and fine works." The district convention is one of the provisions from Jehovah to help us stay sharp spiritually. We cannot afford to miss any part of the program.

[7] **A Wise Person Will Listen:** Listening is an art that has to be developed. It has been said that the average person remembers only about half of what he has heard—no matter how carefully he thinks he listened. Since we live in an age of distractions, at times we may experience difficulty concentrating for long periods. Can we try to increase our attention span, especially when sitting in a large audience listening to someone speak? If you were asked to give a summary of each day's program after returning home from the convention, would you be able to do so? How can all of us improve our ability to listen and pay close attention to each part presented on the convention program?

[8] Keen interest is essential, for the divine gift of memory cannot function efficiently without it. For example, the more interest a person shows in a subject, the easier it is to remember the main points of a talk or program part. Yet, much depends on our paying more than the usual attention to the things we are privileged to hear at district conventions. Our keen interest in and attentiveness to each part of the convention program has a bearing on our present spiritual condition as well as on our future prospects. At conventions we are taught Jehovah's ways and are given instructions for accomplishing a lifesaving work. (1 Tim. 4:16) Think of yourself as a ship in a storm-tossed sea. The promises of Jehovah are the solid anchor of hope. If a person is inattentive at Christian programs and allows his mind to drift, he may miss vital points of counsel and instruction that could prevent him from suffering spiritual shipwreck. —Heb. 2:1; 6:19.

[9] In many parts of the world, our brothers put forth great physical effort to attend meetings. It is marvelous to see their rapt attention at conventions. In some places, though, individuals have distracted others by milling around the convention grounds during sessions. Others come in late. At some past conventions, it was difficult to hear the first few minutes of the program because of so many wandering in the corridors and behind the seating areas. These are usually not brothers on work assignments or mothers attending to the needs of their small children. Much of the disturbance is from people who are just visiting. This year the Attendant Department will be giving more attention to the problem, and hopefully, all will be seated when the chairman invites us

to do so. Your cooperation in this regard will be greatly appreciated.

10 What practical suggestions will help us to be more attentive to the convention program and to retain more of what is presented? What has been said in past years bears repeating: (a) Focus on the main reason for going to the convention city. It is, not to engage in recreation, but to listen and learn. (Deut. 31:12) Try to get sufficient rest each night. If you come to the convention very tired, concentration will be difficult. (b) Give yourself plenty of time to park your car and get seated before the program starts. Rushing to the seats at the last minute will usually result in your missing some of the opening part. (c) Take brief notes of key points. Excessive note-taking can be a hindrance to good listening. When writing, make sure you do not miss other points because of concentrating on your notes. (d) When a convention part is introduced, view it with eager anticipation. Ask yourself, 'What can I learn from this part that will increase my appreciation and love for Jehovah? How can the information help me to manifest the new personality more fully? How will this help me to improve in my ministry?'

11 **Conduct That Adorns Our Ministry:** Paul encouraged Titus to show himself "an example of fine works." By showing uncorruptness in his teaching, Titus would help others to "adorn the teaching of our Savior, God, in all things." (Titus 2:7, 10) Each year, we receive kindly reminders about why godly conduct is so important while we are traveling to and from the convention, as well as when we are at hotels and restaurants and at the convention itself. Last year we again heard some heartwarming comments that we would like to share with you.

12 The manager of a hotel stated: "It is always a pleasure to accommodate the Witnesses because they are patient, cooperative, and they keep a close eye on their children." One hotel desk clerk said that it makes his job "so much easier when the Witnesses are checking in and out of the hotel because, despite having to wait in line, they are always polite, patient, and understanding." A woman in New England was so impressed with the conduct of the Witness youths staying at the same motel that she requested some literature about our organization.

13 On the other hand, there is room for improvement in certain areas. We would like to share some observations that have been sent to the Society. One traveling overseer reported that the children of Jehovah's Witnesses need more supervision at hotels. Some have been seen running in the hallways, riding up and down in the elevators, making a lot of noise around the swimming pool, and staying in the pool well past the posted closing time, thus disturbing the sleep of other guests. We need to train our children to understand that Christian conduct is not on a time schedule. It does not end when we walk out of the convention facility. It must last 24 hours a day. Our conduct at the hotel, in restaurants, and on the streets should be as honorable as when we are sitting down during the sessions with our brothers, being taught by Jehovah.—Isa. 54:13; 1 Pet. 2:12.

14 We would also like to share a kindly reminder about tipping. Waiters, waitresses, hotel maids and bellmen, and others in similar occupations are dependent upon tips to make a living.—See *Awake!* of June 22, 1986, pages 24-7. 2.25 an hour

15 Although food service has been discontinued at our conventions, there is still considerable expense involved in renting the facility, providing parking, and caring for miscellaneous matters. Our voluntary donations care for these expenses. One sister with teenage children came to the convention with limited funds. However, she and the children still helped out with a small contribution. What each one decides to do in this regard is a personal matter, but we know you appreciate such reminders.—Acts 20:35; 2 Cor. 9:7.

16 **Recognized by the Way We Dress:** The way we dress reveals much about us and about our feelings toward others. Most teenagers and many adults are surrounded by faddish, slipshod styles of clothing in school or in their place of employment. Each year clothing styles become more extreme, even shocking. If we are not careful, we could easily be influenced by worldly peers to dress as they do. Many styles are inappropriate to wear at meetings for worship. A note received after one of last year's conventions expressed appreciation for the program but added: "I did wonder why there were so many young girls with such short dresses, low tops, and high slits." Surely all of us desire to be dressed in a manner that befits Christian ministers both at the convention and while socializing after the program. At all times we do well to reflect on the apostle Paul's counsel for Christians to be adorned in "well-arranged dress, with modesty and soundness of mind."—1 Tim. 2:9.

17 Who is to determine what is modest, "well-arranged" dress? Being modest means being "neither bold nor self-assertive." The dictionary also defines modest as "unpretentious." Neither the Society nor the elders are to set out rules about dress or grooming. Even so, should it not be clear to a Christian which clothing styles are simply not modest or decent? (Compare Philippians 1:10.) Our grooming and clothing should not attract undue attention. We must be pleasing in appearance, not worldly or offensive. As ministers of the good news, our being appropriately dressed and groomed during the time that we are in the district convention city brings honor to Jehovah and reflects well on the organization. Hence, parents will set the example and then make sure their children dress prop-

erly for the occasion. Elders will want to set a good example and be ready to offer kind counsel if necessary.

[18] **Hotels:** Earlier we quoted hotel personnel who said that they were impressed because the brothers were patient, polite, and cooperative. We want to continue to display these Christian qualities if we have to wait in line to register. We appreciate the hotels that have cooperated with the Society in providing rooms at an affordable price. Although we may be tired from travel, we should remember to treat hotel employees with kindness. Our doing so may cause some to examine the truth more closely. Please review the January 1996 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert for more information regarding hotel accommodations. Additionally, no cooking is to be done in hotel rooms unless they have a kitchen for that purpose.

[19] **Cameras, Camcorders, and Audiocassette Recorders:** It is permissible to use cameras and other recording equipment, provided we show consideration for others in attendance. If we move around taking pictures during sessions, not only will we distract others who are trying to listen but we will miss some of the program ourselves. We usually benefit more from the convention by paying close attention to the speakers and taking conservative notes. We may be recording for a brother or a sister who is a shut-in; however, for our own use, we may find upon returning home that after taping many hours of the program, there will not be time for us to review much of what we recorded. No recording devices of any sort are to be connected to the electrical or sound systems, nor should equipment block aisles, walkways, or the view of others.

[20] **Seating:** We continue to note improvement in the matter of saving seats. Last year, most of you followed the directions: SEATS MAY BE SAVED ONLY FOR YOUR IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS AND ANY WHO MAY BE TRAVELING WITH YOU IN YOUR CAR. You probably found it to be less stressful because many were following these clear directions. Even more important, your compliance was pleasing to Jehovah and to the 'faithful slave,' who gives the spiritual food.—Matt. 24:45.

[21] There is a growing number of our brothers who have special health needs. Some come to the convention in wheelchairs and need to be cared for by family members. Others are on various medications for chronic maladies such as heart problems or seizures. It truly warms our heart to see these dear brothers and sisters at the convention, determined not to miss any of the spiritual food. However, at times, there has been the problem of some persons becoming ill during the convention, with no family or congregation members to render assistance. In certain cases the convention administration was required to call for an emergency medical service to transport a brother or a sister to the hospital. The responsibility for the care of the chronically ill should fall primarily on family members and close relatives. The convention First Aid Department is not in a position to provide care for the chronically ill. If a member of your family is in need of special care, please be sure he is not left alone in case an emergency arises. In addition, there will be no arrangements at the conventions for special rooms to accommodate those who have allergies that preclude their sitting in the general seating areas. Elders will want to be alert to any in their congregation who have special health needs and make sure arrangements are made ahead of time for their care.

[22] **Convention Food Needs:** Many positive comments have been made regarding the benefits of bringing our own food. One brother wrote: "I can clearly see a huge spiritual dividend from this. All that time and energy can now be diverted to spiritual matters. I have not heard one negative comment." A sister wrote: "By example, you dear brothers encourage us as individual Christians to examine ourselves and seek ways to simplify our lives and increase our theocratic activity." A traveling overseer wrote about the former food service provisions: "The old arrangement caused a good number of the brothers to miss the entire assembly program." Regarding the food the brothers brought, one elder wrote: "They had just what they wanted, and they didn't have to wait in line for it." Lastly, another sister wrote: "After the sessions it was peaceful and quiet and there was an air of cheerfulness." Yes, each one could bring enough to sustain himself through the afternoon period. Many commented on the fact that they had more time to visit with friends.

[23] There will be no food service again this year. You might take a few minutes to review the May 1995 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert, paragraph 26, for suggestions on practical, nourishing food items that can be taken to the convention. Please remember, no glass containers or alcoholic beverages are to be brought into the convention facility. If small coolers are necessary, they must fit under your seat. Have in mind that there is sufficient time during the noon break to eat and drink what you bring. As at our Kingdom Halls during meetings, we always refrain from eating during convention sessions. Thus we demonstrate respect for the arrangement for worship and the spiritual food being provided.

[24] Soon the first "Messengers of Godly Peace" District Conventions will begin. Have you completed your preparations to attend, and are you now ready to enjoy three days of happy fellowship and spiritual good things? It is our sincere prayer that Jehovah will bless your efforts to attend this summer's convention.

District Convention Reminders

Baptism: Baptismal candidates should be seated in the designated section before the program begins on Saturday morning. It has been observed that some wear types of attire that are not dignified and detract from the occasion. A *modest* bathing suit and a towel should be brought by each one who plans to be baptized. Congregation elders reviewing the questions in the *Our Ministry* book with baptismal candidates will want to make sure that each one understands these points. After the baptism talk and prayer by the speaker, the session chairman will give brief instructions to the candidates and will then call for a song. After the last stanza, the attendants will direct the candidates to the immersion site. Since baptism in symbol of one's dedication is an intimate and personal matter between the individual and Jehovah, there is no provision for so-called partner baptisms in which two or more baptismal candidates embrace or hold hands while being baptized.

Badge Cards: Please wear the 1996 badge card at the convention and while traveling to and from the convention site. This often makes it possible for us to give a fine witness while traveling. Badge cards and holders should be obtained through your congregation, as they will *not* be available at the convention. Do not wait until a few days before the convention to ask for cards for you and your family. Remember to carry your current Advance Medical Directive/Release card.

Rooming: We are asking for the cooperation of everyone in using ONLY the listing of accommodations provided by the convention. If we bypass the Society's arrangement and secure a hotel not on the approved list or pay more than the agreed-upon rate at one of the listed hotels, we undermine much of the hard work of our brothers who negotiate with the hotels for better rates. IF YOU EXPERIENCE A PROBLEM WITH A HOTEL, please do not hesitate to bring it to the attention of the Rooming Department overseer at the convention so that he can assist you in resolving the matter right away. Congregation secretaries should be sure that Special Needs Room Request forms are promptly forwarded to the appropriate convention address. If you must cancel an accommodation made through the special needs arrangement, you should immediately notify both the landlord or hotel and the convention Rooming Department so that the room can be reassigned.

Baby Strollers and Lawn Chairs: In most locations, baby strollers cannot be used in places of public assembly. Fire regulations prohibit placing them in corridors and aisles or between rows of seats. Since large crowds may cause congested conditions, baby strollers are potentially dangerous not only to the baby but also to any who may stumble over them. So please do not bring them to the convention site. However, infant or car seats are permissible, since these can be secured in seats next to the parents. Also, please do not bring lawn chairs. They are dangerous and are not allowed at large public facilities. Your cooperation in these matters is appreciated.

Volunteer Service: With no more food service, many who formerly worked in that department may now find that they can volunteer to work elsewhere. Can you set aside some time at the convention to assist in one of the departments? Serving our brothers, if only for a few hours, can be very helpful and bring a good measure of satisfaction. If you can assist, please report to the Volunteer Service Department at the convention. Children under 16 years of age can also make a fine contribution by working under the direction of a parent or other responsible adult.

Words of Caution: Keep alert to potential problems so as to avoid unnecessary difficulty. Often thieves and other unscrupulous individuals will prey on people who are away from their home environment. Be sure your vehicle is locked *at all times,* and never leave anything visible to tempt someone to break in. Thieves and pickpockets focus their attention on large gatherings. It would not be wise to leave any valuables at your seat. You cannot be sure that everyone around you is a Christian. Why offer any temptation? Reports have been received of attempts made by some outsiders to lure children away. **KEEP YOUR CHILDREN IN SIGHT AT ALL TIMES.**

Television and video services available in many hotels often feature lewd, pornographic programs. Be alert to this snare, and do not permit children to have unsupervised access to the television in the room.

Please do not phone or write the management of the convention auditorium, seeking information about any convention matters. If the information is not available from the elders, you may write to the address of a specific convention, as found on the back of the Special Needs Room Request forms, one of which is posted on the congregation's information board.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **May:** Individual copies of both *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* For territory that is covered frequently, any appropriate brochure may also be used. Where interest is found on return visits, subscriptions may be offered. **June:** *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life.* **July and August:** Any of the following 32-page brochures: *Does God Really Care About Us?, Enjoy Life on Earth Forever!, "Look! I Am Making All Things New," Should You Believe in the Trinity?, The Government That Will Bring Paradise, What Is the Purpose of Life—How Can You Find It?,* and *When Someone You Love Dies.* Where appropriate, brochures such as *Our Problems—Who Will Help Us Solve Them?, Spirits of the Dead—Can They Help You or Harm You? Do They Really Exist?,* and *Will There Ever Be a World Without War?* may be offered.

■ New Publications Available:

Sing Praises to Jehovah (Lyrics only) —Iloko

Who Really Rules the World? (Tract No. 22) —Bengali

■ New Videocassettes Available:

The Bible—Mankind's Oldest Modern Book —French, Korean

QUESTION BOX

■ Now that we have the book *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life,* how long should a home Bible study be conducted?

Our Kingdom Ministry for September 1993 recommended that a home Bible study be continued with newly interested ones until two books have been studied. Now that we have the *Knowledge* book, it seems advisable to make an adjustment in this procedure, as outlined on pages 13 and 14 of the January 15, 1996, issue of *The Watchtower.*

The *Knowledge* book is designed to help those "rightly disposed for everlasting life" to learn what they need to know in order to make a dedication to Jehovah and get baptized. (Acts 13:48) Therefore, after completing this new publication, it should not be necessary to study a second book with the same student. As your Bible students begin to embrace the truth, you can progressively encourage them to round out their knowledge by attending meetings of Jehovah's Witnesses as well as by reading the Bible and various Christian publications.

If you are thoroughly familiar with the questions on pages 175 to 218 of the book *Organized to Accomplish Our Ministry,* this may be helpful. Although you should not make reference to these questions or review them with the Bible student, it may be good to emphasize points in the *Knowledge* book that will enable the student to express a proper understanding of basic Bible truths when the elders review questions with baptism candidates.

There is no need to supplement the information in the *Knowledge* book, bringing in outside material or additional arguments to support Bible teachings or to disprove false doctrines. This would only serve to extend the study over a longer period of time. Rather, it is hoped that the book can be covered rather quickly, perhaps in about six months. This emphasizes the need for us to study the material thoroughly in advance so that we can present it clearly and concisely. The student should likewise be urged to study in advance, look up cited scriptures, and endeavor to discern clearly what the book is teaching in each chapter.

The Watchtower has stressed the need for Jehovah's Witnesses to conduct a greater number of effective Bible studies in a shorter period of time. (See Isaiah 60:22.) Effective use of the *Knowledge* book can help new ones to acquire the knowledge that leads to everlasting life and act upon it.—John 17:3.

Are You Too Busy?

[1] Paul exhorted that we 'always have plenty to do in the work of the Lord.' (1 Cor. 15:58) We are urged to maintain a daily routine for personal study, share regularly in the ministry, attend meetings faithfully, and care for congregation assignments diligently. Added to that, we must assist others who need our help. With so much to do, at times we may feel overwhelmed, thinking that we have to look for ways to cut down on our work load.

[2] There are situations that may make it both wise and reasonable to eliminate certain activities or reduce their level. Some individuals feel that they are expected to do everything requested of them by others. A lack of balance in this regard can produce pressure and stress that can ultimately become devastating.

[3] **Be Balanced:** The key to balance lies in applying Paul's counsel to "make sure of the more important things." (Phil. 1:10) That simply means that we concentrate on the things that really matter and, if time and circumstances permit, care for some things of lesser importance. Family obligations certainly rank high among those things that are vital. Certain secular responsibilities have to be handled. However, Jesus taught that our priorities should be based on the premise that we seek the Kingdom first. We must *first* do the things that will allow us to fulfill our dedication to Jehovah.—Matt. 5:3; 6:33.

[4] Having this in mind, we will make sure that we cut out of our busy schedule any unnecessary personal pursuits, excessive recreational activities, and nonessential commitments to others. In planning our activity for each week, we will set aside time for sufficient personal study, a reasonable share in service, attendance at meetings, and any other things closely connected with our worship. The remaining time may be divided among other pursuits, depending on how much they contribute toward achieving our primary goal of being balanced Christians who keep the Kingdom first.

[5] Even then, we may still feel our load is oppressive. If so, we need to respond to Jesus' invitation: "Come to me, all you who are toiling and loaded down, and I will refresh you." (Matt. 11:28) Also, look to Jehovah, "who daily carries the load for us" and gives to the tired one power. He promises that he will never allow the righteous one to totter. (Ps. 55:22; 68:19; Isa. 40:29) We can be confident that our prayers will be answered, making it possible for us to persevere in an active life of theocratic activity.

[6] While we are sure to be kept busy in pursuing worthwhile Kingdom interests, we can rejoice in knowing that our labor is not in vain in connection with the Lord.—1 Cor. 15:58.

Speak Truth to Your Neighbor

[1] One of the two greatest commandments is: "You must love your neighbor as yourself." (Matt. 22:39) Such love will prompt us to share with our neighbor the best thing we have —the truth that we have found in God's Word. Since the *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines amplify the Bible's message of truth, distributing these journals during the month of May is one way for us to 'speak truth with our neighbors.'—Eph. 4:25.

[2] ***The April 22 "Awake!" should be featured until your supply is exhausted. You might initiate your presentation by asking:***

■ "What is your reaction to a world without war? [Allow for response.] Did you know that the world's religions actually promote wars and killing? [Allow for response.] In sharp contrast, notice what the Bible says the true worshipers of God will do." Read Isaiah 2:2-4 from the top of page 4 of the magazine, and then on page 10 read the first paragraph under the subheading "Calling to Lovers of Peace." Next, ask: "Do you know how God will do that? The answer is found in this magazine, and this is your copy to read."

[3] ***When offering the May 15 "Watchtower," try referring to a recent news event that has caused people to feel insecure, and then ask:***

■ "What do you think it would take to make us feel truly secure in this life? [Allow for response.] In all honesty, is it realistic to trust in humans to solve the problems facing mankind? [Allow for response; then read Psalm 146:3.] The psalmist next gives us reason to be optimistic about the future. [Read Psalm 146:5, 6.] This article, 'True Security, Now and Forever,' explains why we can trust in Jehovah God to bring better conditions to the earth." Offer to leave a set of magazines and to return to discuss how it is possible to enjoy a secure life right now.

[4] ***The cover story of the May 22 "Awake!" should capture the interest of people in both house-to-house and business territory. You could introduce it by saying:***

■ "Many women have experienced the nightmare of sexual harassment in the workplace. The situation has become so serious that courts have begun to punish offenders and compensate victims. As a service to the community, we have published this report, which dispels common myths about the matter. It also provides practical ideas for women and for men as to how to protect themselves from becoming either a victim or one accused of sexual harassment. Would you like to read this issue of *Awake!* magazine? [Allow for response.] While we leave our journals without charge, we do accept small donations for our worldwide work."

[5] ***If you prefer a brief presentation, you might try this:***

■ "Many feel that most of today's popular magazines feature too much commercialism, sex, or violence. [Show *The Watchtower* and *Awake!*] We're distributing these wholesome journals that are based on the Bible. They are very educational and teach us to worship God, love our neighbor, and maintain upright conduct. If you prefer this type of reading material, I know you'll enjoy what you find in these issues."

[6] If we are zealous in speaking the truth to our neighbors, we may be able to bring a great deal of joy to many. —Acts 8:4, 8.

Keep On Speaking the Truth

[1] The apostles declared: "We cannot stop speaking about the things we have seen and heard." (Acts 4:20) Today we too must keep on *speaking* the truth. Although the distribution of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* is a means for locating those who will listen, we must return if we are to teach interested ones more of the truth.

[2] ***When following up a placement of the special April "Awake!" with its topic "When Wars Will Be No More," you could introduce a Bible study by asking:***

■ "Last time, we talked about the wars of the nations and religion's part in them. Had you realized that such events clearly prove we are living in what the Bible calls the last days? [Show the *Knowledge* book. Read the first paragraph of chapter 11, and highlight the box on page 102.] This book explains this subject along with 18 others listed here in the contents. [Show page 3.] If I may, I'd like to demonstrate how this book can help you to get an understanding of these important Bible matters." If allowed, start a study on page 6.

[3] ***If you promised to return and explain how it is possible to enjoy a secure life now, you might say something like this:***

■ "When we first met, I shared with you a passage from the Bible that gives us reason for optimism about man's future. Today I would like to call your attention to something that shows who it is that can give us a feeling of security right now." Read Psalm 4:8. Turn in the *Knowledge* book to page 168 and read paragraph 19. Then ask: "Would you enjoy having a free home Bible study that shows clearly how you too can find this kind of security in your life?" If the answer is yes, turn to chapter 1.

[4] ***To add to your magazine route those with whom you placed the May 22 "Awake!," you could try this approach:***

■ "You seemed quite eager to read the *Awake!* magazine that I left with you on the subject of sexual harassment in the workplace. Did you find the material interesting? [Allow for response.] Regular readers of *Awake!* often say they appreciate its fair and thorough treatment of such important subjects. I think you will find that to be true also of this latest issue. [Briefly feature the cover story.] Would you like to read it?"

[5] ***You could make a direct offer of a study on the return visit by saying:***

■ "We distribute our magazines worldwide to inform people everywhere about what the Bible teaches. If individuals appreciate what they learn, we offer a free home Bible study. [Refer to the box 'Would You Welcome a Visit?' on the back cover of *The Watchtower.*] We use this book, *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life,* as a guide. Let me briefly show you how a study is conducted."

[6] If we keep on speaking the truth, we can be sure that there will be some who will listen and respond favorably. —Mark 4:20.

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OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

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Imitate Their Faith

1 The apostle Paul defined faith as "the assured expectation of things hoped for, the evident demonstration of realities though not beheld." He added that "without faith it is impossible to please [God] well." (Heb. 11: 1, 6) Paul urged us to exercise faith, overflow with it, and pursue it.—2 Cor. 4:13; Col. 2:7; 2 Tim. 2:22.

2 There are many outstanding examples of faith recounted in the Bible. In Hebrews chapter 11, Paul gives a long list of witnesses who demonstrated unbreakable faith. Included in this list is Abel, who was the first to be martyred for his faith. Noah is listed because by his faith he showed the godly fear that was needed to save his household. Abraham is commended for his faith and obedience. Moses is praised because by his faith he continued steadfast as seeing the One who is invisible. The list of examples was so long that Paul said time would fail him if he went on to relate all of them. How thankful we are that we can strengthen our faith by reviewing their "holy acts of conduct and deeds of godly devotion"!—2 Pet. 3:11.

3 In the first century, Jesus posed the question: "When the Son of man arrives, will he really find the faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:8) Well, then, do we have living examples of faith among us today? Do we see men and women, both young and old, manifesting unshakable faith in Jehovah as was true of God's people in Bible times?

4 **Modern-Day Examples of Faith:** Outstanding examples of faith are to be found all around us! The faith of overseers who are taking the lead among us is worthy of imitation. (Heb. 13:7) But these are not the only ones exemplary in faith. Associated with every congregation are loyal ones who have a long record of faithful service to Jehovah, often performed under very difficult circumstances.

5 We must admire our faithful sisters who, for years, have endured opposition from opposing husbands. Single parents have had to meet the challenge of raising children alone. There are older widows among us who are never missing from congregation activities even though they may have no family to help them. (Compare Luke 2:37.) We marvel at the faith of those who endure chronic health problems. Many continue to serve loyally even though they have limitations that prevent them from being assigned extra privileges of service. There are young Witnesses who have courageously exercised faith despite opposition in school. Our godly devotion grows stronger as we observe faithful pioneers who persevere year after year in the face of untold problems. Just like Paul, time would fail us if we tried to relate all the experiences in Kingdom service and the acts of faith performed by these brothers and sisters!

6 These examples of faithful ones give us comfort and encouragement. (1 Thess. 3:7, 8) We do well to imitate their faith because "those acting in faithfulness are a pleasure to [Jehovah]."—Prov. 12:22.

Help Them to Serve Again

1 Recognizing a potential spiritual danger for his fellow Christians, the apostle Paul wrote: "It is already the hour for you to awake from sleep, for now our salvation is nearer than at the time when we became believers." (Rom. 13:11) Paul was concerned about his brothers who had become spiritually drowsy; he was anxious to revive them to renewed activity.

2 It can truly be said that the night of this old world is well along and the dawn of the new world is just ahead. (Rom. 13:12) We have good reason to be concerned about our brothers who have ceased to associate with us as preachers of the good news. Last service year, in the United States alone, over 27,000 publishers were reactivated. How can we help other inactive ones to serve Jehovah once again?

3 **What Elders Can Do:** Most who are inactive have not abandoned the truth; they have simply stopped preaching because of discouragement, personal problems, materialism, or other anxieties of life. (Luke 21:34-36) If possible, it is far better to help them before they become inactive. The congregation secretary should alert the Congregation Book Study conductor when a publisher becomes irregular in reporting service activity. Arrangements can be made for a shepherding visit. They should try to determine the underlying cause of the problem and how assistance can be given.—See September 15, 1993, *Watchtower*, pages 20-3.

4 **How Others Can Help:** Most of us know someone who has become inactive. It might be a person who was quite close to us in the past. What can we do to help? Why not stop in for a brief visit. Tell him you miss his company. Be cheerful and positive. Express your concern without implying he is spiritually sick. Relate upbuilding experiences or other good things being accomplished by the congregation. Enthusiastically tell him about the "Messengers of Godly Peace" District Convention, and encourage him to attend. Associating again with the congregation may help him more than anything else. Offer to accompany him to the meetings. Let the elders know of the response you received.

5 When a person who has become inactive returns to the meetings, likely he will feel awkward when encountering others he has known in the past. Don't ask, "Where have you been?" Instead, make him feel welcome. Involve him in conversation. Introduce him to those he does not know. Sit with him during the meeting, making sure he has a songbook and the material being studied. Encourage him to come back, and offer your assistance if there is a need.

6 Having warm affection for those who have strayed, Jehovah and Jesus rejoice when such ones make a spiritual recovery. (Mal. 3:7; Matt. 18:12-14) We can experience that same joy if we succeed in helping others to serve Jehovah again.

SERVICE MEETINGS FOR JUNE

NOTE: *Our Kingdom Ministry* will schedule a Service Meeting for each week during the summer. Congregations may make adjustments as needed to allow for attending the "Messengers of Godly Peace" District Convention and then for a 30-minute review of the program highlights at the Service Meeting the following week. The day-by-day review of the district convention program should be assigned in advance to two or three qualified brothers who will be able to focus on outstanding points. This well-prepared review will help the congregation remember key points for personal application and for use in the field. Comments from the audience and experiences related should be brief and to the point.

Week Starting June 3

Song 181

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Comment on monthly field service report for both the country and the local congregation.

15 min: "Imitate Their Faith." Questions and answers. Review evidences of faith, covered in box on page 13 in the September 15, 1991, *Watchtower.* Interview one or two publishers to find out what has helped them to maintain their regular Kingdom activity for many years.

20 min: "Spreading the Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life." (Paragraphs 1-3) Cover paragraph 1. (Include comments from January 15, 1996, *Watchtower,* pages 12-13, paragraphs 11-12.) Explain that the new format for the back page of *Our Kingdom Ministry* is designed to help us to be better prepared to follow up initial calls. Since it is often wise to make the return visit within a day or two, instead of waiting longer, we will consider suggested presentations for both the house-to-house call and the return visit on the same Service Meeting. Briefly review paragraphs 2 and 3, followed by a demonstration of each. The initial presentation should include brief comments on how a donation can be made to the worldwide work. The remaining presentations in the article will be covered on the next two Service Meetings. Song 143 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting June 10

Song 63

7 min: Local announcements. Accounts report.

8 min: Training Children in Field Service. A talk by an elder. From an early age, our children should be active with us in service. The training and experience they acquire will provide a strong basis for their faith and zeal in later years. It is important that they appreciate the need to take the ministry seriously and conduct themselves properly. Children must avoid rowdy conduct; service is not a time for playing. It is best for them to work with adults. They should be helped to share in giving presentations according to their abilities. (See August 1, 1988, *Watchtower,* page 15, paragraph 20.) Parents are responsible to provide oversight; they should not send children to meetings for service without an older person to supervise them. Commend children when they do well.

10 min: "Spreading the Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life." (Paragraphs 4-5) After a brief introduction, demonstrate the presentations for the initial call and return visit in paragraphs 4 and 5. Encourage publishers to follow up all placements of the *Knowledge* book promptly.

20 min: "How to Make Disciples With the *Knowledge* Book." Make brief opening comments based on paragraphs 1-2. Cover paragraphs 3-11 with questions and answers. Explain that the remainder of the insert will be considered on Service Meetings in July and August. Encourage all to save it.

Song 92 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting June 17

Song 157

10 min: Local announcements. Question Box.

15 min: "Friendly Conversations Can Reach the Heart." Questions and answers. Invite one or two publishers to relate encouraging experiences showing how they got good response with friendly approach.

20 min: "Spreading the Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life." (Paragraphs 6-7) Emphasize goals in making a return visit: Cultivate interest, start a study, make specific arrangements to return. After briefly reviewing the presentations in paragraphs 6 and 7, have each one demonstrated, showing how to start a study. Read paragraph 17 on page 14 in the January 15, 1996, *Watchtower.*

Song 211 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting June 24

Song 6

10 min: Local announcements. Outline special field service arrangements for July 4.

15 min: Local needs. (Or give a talk on "Handling the Word of the Truth Aright," based on January 1, 1996, *Watchtower,* pages 29-31.)

20 min: "Help Them to Serve Again." Talk and discussion by an elder. Suggest using the August 1, 1992, *Watchtower* article "Return to Me, and I Will Return to You" to encourage inactive ones. Mention some of the main points.

Song 71 and concluding prayer.

QUESTION BOX

■ How should the listing for Jehovah's Witnesses appear in a local telephone directory?

It has been noted that there is great variety in the way that listings for Jehovah's Witnesses appear in telephone directories around the country. Some are rather confusing, and others do not provide sufficient information. If the congregation has a telephone in the Kingdom Hall, it is important to have an informative listing in the telephone book, making it possible for interested ones and our brothers to make contact with the local congregation.

The following is the recommended listing: Jehovah's Witnesses, (City), (State), followed by the Kingdom Hall address and phone number.

In cities having more than one congregation, we recommend the following: Jehovah's Witnesses, (City), (State), followed by an alphabetic listing giving the name, Kingdom Hall address, and phone number of the congregations.

It can be determined locally whether to provide an alternate phone number. If you share a Kingdom Hall with another congregation located in a different city that is not covered by the local telephone book, the name of that city should also be shown along with the Kingdom Hall address and phone number.

How to Make Disciples With the *Knowledge* Book

What must I do to get life? – What do you read?

[1] A desirable goal for all Christians is to teach the truth to others and make disciples of those who are "rightly disposed for everlasting life." (Acts 13:48; Matt. 28:19, 20) Jehovah's organization has placed in our hands a wonderful tool with which to accomplish this—the book *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life*. Its title keeps to the fore the great importance of home Bible studies, for everlasting life depends on taking in knowledge of Jehovah, the only true God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ.—John 17:3.

[2] The *Knowledge* book is now the main publication of the Society for use in conducting home Bible studies. Using it, we can teach the truth with simplicity, clarity, and brevity. This will help reach the heart of those being taught. (Luke 24:32) Of course, there is a need for the conductor to use good teaching techniques. To that end, this insert has been prepared to set out suggestions and reminders regarding teaching methods that have proved effective. With discernment, and according to individual circumstances, you may be able to apply progressively some or all of what is here presented. Save this insert, and refer to it often. Various points in it may help you to be more effective in using the *Knowledge* book to make disciples.

[3] **Conduct a Progressive Home Bible Study:** Take a genuine personal interest in the student as a potential Christian disciple and spiritual brother or sister. Be warm, friendly, and enthusiastic. By being a good listener, you can get to know the other person—his background and situation in life—which will help you to discern how best to assist him spiritually. Be willing to give of yourself for the sake of the student. —1 Thess. 2:8. Impart GN + souls

[4] Once a study is established, it is preferred that the chapters in the *Knowledge* book be studied in numerical order. This will allow the student to acquire a progressive understanding of the truth, since the book develops Bible subjects in the most logical sequence. Keep the study simple and interesting so that it is lively and moves along. (Rom. 12:11) Depending on the circumstances and aptitude of the student, it may be possible for you to cover most chapters in one session of an hour or so, without rushing through the study. Students will make better progress when both teacher and student keep their appointment for the study each week. Thus, with most persons, it may be possible to complete the book's 19 chapters in a matter of about six months or so.

[5] Introduce each session with brief remarks that stimulate interest in the material. You will observe that the title of each chapter is its theme, which needs to be emphasized. Each subheading isolates a main point, helping you to keep the chapter theme in focus. Be careful not to do too much talking. Instead, try to draw out the student's expressions. Asking specific *leading* questions of the student, based on what he already knows, will help him to reason and come to correct conclusions. (Matt. 17:24-26; Luke 10:25-37; see *School Guidebook,* page 51, paragraph 10.) Stick closely to the printed information in the *Knowledge* book. Introducing extra details could detract from or obscure the main points and protract the study. (John 16:12) If a question that does not pertain to the subject being studied is raised, in most cases you could address it at the end of the session. This will allow you to cover the week's lesson without getting sidetracked. Explain to the student that eventually most of his personal questions will be answered through the course of the study. —See *School Guidebook,* page 94, paragraph 14.

[6] If the student strongly holds to the Trinity, immortality of the soul, hellfire, or other such false doctrines, and what is presented in the *Knowledge* book does not satisfy him, you could give him the *Reasoning* book or another publication that discusses the subject. Tell him that you will discuss the subject with him after he thinks about what he reads.

[7] Beginning and ending the study with prayer for Jehovah's guidance and blessing dignifies the occasion, puts one in a respectful frame of mind, and draws attention to Jehovah as the true Teacher. (John 6:45) If the student is still a tobacco user, you may eventually need to ask him to abstain during the study.—Acts 24:16; Jas. 4:3. – you ask – not receive –

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[8] **Teach Effectively With the Scriptures, Illustrations, and Review Questions:** No matter how many times he may have studied the material before, a skillful teacher will review each lesson with the particular student in mind.

[illegible] [illegible]

This helps to anticipate some of the student's questions. To teach effectively, get a clear grasp of the main points in the chapter. Look up the scriptures to see how they apply to the material, and decide which ones should be read during the study. Give thought as to how you can teach using the illustrations and the review questions at the end of the chapter.

[9] By making effective use of the scriptures, you will help the student to appreciate that he is indeed studying the Bible. (Acts 17:11) Using the box "Put Your Bible to Good Use," on page 14 of the *Knowledge* book, teach him how to locate scriptures. Show him how to identify the *quoted* verses in the lesson. As time allows, look up and read *cited* scriptures that are not quoted. Have the student comment on how they support or clarify what is stated in the paragraph. Emphasize key portions of the texts so that he comes to appreciate the *reasons* for the main points of the lesson. (Neh. 8:8) Generally, there is no need for the teacher to incorporate more texts into the discussion than those the book provides. Comment on the value of knowing the names and order of the Bible books. It may be helpful for the student to read pages 27-30 of the June 15, 1991, *Watchtower*. When appropriate, encourage use of the *New World Translation*. You could progressively demonstrate how to use its various features, such as the marginal references and the index of Bible words.

[10] Study 34 in the *Theocratic Ministry School Guidebook* explains that illustrations stir up one's thinking processes and make it easier to grasp new thoughts. They couple intellectual appeal with emotional impact, so that the message is conveyed with a force that is not often possible with simple statements of fact. (Matt. 13:34) The *Knowledge* book has numerous teaching illustrations that are simple yet powerful. For example, an illustration used in chapter 17 builds appreciation for how, in a spiritual sense, Jehovah furnishes food, clothing, and shelter through the Christian congregation. The *Knowledge* book's beautiful pictorial illustrations can be used effectively to stir the emotions. Under the subheading "The Joyous Resurrection," on page 185, the impact of paragraph 18 will be strengthened by having the student look back at the picture on page 86. This may move him to think of the resurrection as a reality under God's Kingdom.

[11] Bible students need to make spiritual progress with each lesson. For this reason, do not fail to ask the review questions in the "Test Your Knowledge" box that appears at the end of each chapter. Listen for more than an intellectual explanation of what was studied. Several of these questions are designed to draw out a personal response from the heart. For example, see page 31, where the student is asked: "What qualities of Jehovah God especially appeal to you?" —2 Cor. 13:5. Keep testing to see if in

[12] **Train Students to Prepare for the Study:** A student who reads the lesson beforehand, marks the answers, and thinks of how to express them in his own words will make faster spiritual progress. By your example and encouragement, you can train him to prepare for the study. Show him your book, in which you have highlighted or underlined the key words and phrases. Explain how to find direct answers to the printed questions. Preparing a chapter together may be helpful to the student. Encourage him to express himself in his own words. Only then does it become clear whether he understands the material. If he reads his answer from the book, you can stimulate his thinking by asking him how he would explain the point to someone else in his own words.

[13] Encourage the student to look up unquoted scriptures as part of his weekly preparation, as there may not be time to read all of them during the study. Commend him for the effort he is putting into his lessons. (2 Pet. 1:5; see the August 15, 1993, *Watchtower*, pages 13-14, for additional suggestions on what can be done by both teacher and student to increase learning on a Bible study.) In this way, the student is being trained to prepare for and make meaningful comments at congregation meetings. He will be learning how to develop good personal study habits that will equip him to continue making advancement in the truth after his personal Bible study in the *Knowledge* book is completed. —1 Tim. 4:15; 1 Pet. 2:2.

[14] **Direct Students to Jehovah's Organization:** It is a disciple maker's responsibility to direct the student's interest to Jehovah's organization. The student will advance more quickly to spiritual maturity if he recognizes and appreciates the organization and realizes the need to become part of it. We want him to find pleasure in associating with God's people and to look forward to being with us at the Kingdom Hall, where he can receive the spiritual and emotional support that the Christian congregation offers.—1 Tim. 3:15.

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[15] The brochure *Jehovah's Witnesses—Unitedly Doing God's Will Worldwide* has been produced to acquaint individuals with the only visible organization Jehovah is using today to accomplish his will. Once the study is established, why not give the student a copy? From the very start, keep inviting the student to the meetings. Explain how they are conducted. You could tell him the title of an upcoming public talk or show him the article that will be discussed at the *Watchtower* Study. Perhaps you could take him to see the Kingdom Hall when a meeting is not in progress so as to alleviate any anxiety he may have about going to a new place for the first time. You may be able to offer transportation to the meetings. When he attends, make him feel welcome and comfortable. (Matt. 7:12) Introduce him to other Witnesses, including the elders. Hopefully, he will begin viewing the congregation as his spiritual family. (Matt. 12:49, 50; Mark 10:29, 30) You might set a goal for him, such as attending one meeting each week, and progressively raise the goal.—Heb. 10:24, 25.

[16] As the home Bible study proceeds through the *Knowledge* book, emphasize the portions that highlight the need for regular association with the congregation at meetings. Note especially pages 52, 115, 137-9, 159, as well as chapter 17. Express your own deep feelings of appreciation for Jehovah's organization. (Matt. 24:45-47) Speak positively about the local congregation and about what you learn at the meetings. (Ps. 84:10; 133:1-3) It would be good if the student could watch each of the Society's videos, beginning with *Jehovah's Witnesses —The Organization Behind the Name*. For further ideas on how to direct interest to the organization, see the November 1, 1984, *Watchtower*, pages 14-18, and the April 1993 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert.

[17] **Encourage Students to Witness to Others:** Our goal in studying with people is to make disciples who witness for Jehovah. (Isa. 43:10-12) That means the teacher should encourage the student to talk to others about what he is learning from the Bible. This can be done as simply as asking: "How would you explain this truth to your family?" or "What scripture would you use to prove this to a friend?" Emphasize key places in the *Knowledge* book where witnessing is encouraged, such as pages 22, 93-5, 105-6, as well as chapter 18. When appropriate, the student may be given some tracts to use in informally witnessing to others. Suggest that he invite his family members to sit in on his study. Does he have friends who would also like to study? Ask him to refer you to those who are interested.

[18] By attending the Theocratic Ministry School and the Service Meeting, the prospective disciple can receive additional training and stimulus that will help him become a publisher of the good news. When he expresses an interest in enrolling in the school or becoming an unbaptized publisher, the principles that are set out on pages 98 and 99 of the *Our Ministry* book will apply. If an aspect of his life prevents him from qualifying, you can search in the Society's publications for helpful material that bears on the matter and share it with him. For example, a student may be having difficulty overcoming an addiction to tobacco or other drugs. The *Reasoning* book points out strong Scriptural reasons why Christians avoid such harmful habits, and on page 112 it outlines a way that has proved successful in helping others to break free. Pray with him about the matter, teaching him to build his dependence upon Jehovah for help.—Jas. 4:8.

[19] The procedure to be followed for determining whether one qualifies to share in the public ministry is outlined in the January 15, 1996, *Watchtower*, page 16, paragraph 6. When the student qualifies, it would be helpful to conduct a practice session to prepare him for his first day in field service. In a positive manner, discuss the people's reactions and objections that are common in your territory. Start him in the house-to-house work first if at all possible, and progressively train him in other features of the ministry. If you keep your presentation short and simple, it will be easy for him to imitate. Be upbuilding and encouraging, radiating joy in the work, so that he picks up your spirit and reflects it. (Acts 18:25) The goal of a new disciple should be to become a regular, zealous publisher of the good news. Perhaps you can help him to work up a practical schedule for service. In order for him to progress in his ability to witness to others, you may suggest that he read the *Watchtower* issues of August 15, 1984, pages 15-25; July 15, 1988, pages 9-20; January 15, 1991, pages 15-20; and January 1, 1994, pages 20-5.

[20] **Motivate Students Toward Dedication and Baptism:** It should be possible for an honesthearted student to learn enough

through a study of the *Knowledge* book to make a dedication to God and qualify for baptism. (Compare Acts 8:27-39; 16:25-34.) However, before a person will be motivated to make a dedication, he needs to develop devotion to Jehovah. (Ps. 73:25-28) Throughout the course of the study, look for opportunities to build appreciation for Jehovah's qualities. Express your own deep feelings for God. Help the student think in terms of developing a warm, personal relationship with Jehovah. If he really comes to know and love God, then he will serve Him faithfully, for godly devotion has to do with how we feel about Jehovah as a person.—1 Tim. 4:7, 8; see *School Guidebook,* page 76, paragraph 11.

21 Strive to reach the student's heart. (Ps. 119:11; Acts 16:14; Rom. 10:10) He needs to see how the truth affects him personally and to decide what he should do with what he has learned. (Rom. 12:2) Does he really believe the truth that is presented to him week by week? (1 Thess. 2:13) To that end, you can draw the student out by asking discerning *viewpoint* questions, such as: How do you feel about this? How can you apply this in your life? By his comments you may discern where more help is needed to reach his heart. (Luke 8:15; see *School Guidebook,* page 52, paragraph 11.) The captions for the pictures on pages 172 and 174 of the *Knowledge* book ask: "Have you made a dedication to God in prayer?" and "What prevents you from getting baptized?" These may effectively motivate the student to action.

22 The procedure to be followed when an unbaptized publisher desires to be baptized is outlined in the January 15, 1996, *Watchtower,* page 17, paragraph 9. The *Knowledge* book was written with the objective of equipping the person to answer the "Questions for Those Desiring to Be Baptized," found in the appendix of the *Our Ministry* book, which the elders will review with him. If you have stressed the answers to the printed questions in the *Knowledge* book, the student should be well equipped for the question sessions conducted by the elders in preparation for his baptism.

23 **Help Those Who Complete the Home Bible Study:** It should be expected that by the time a person completes a study of the *Knowledge* book, his sincerity and depth of interest in serving God will have become apparent. (Matt. 13:23) That is why the final subheading of the book asks, "What Will You Do?" The closing paragraphs appeal to the student to focus on the relationship he should have developed with God, the need to apply the knowledge he has learned, and the need to act quickly to demonstrate his love for Jehovah. There is no provision for studying additional publications with those who complete the *Knowledge* book. Kindly and clearly explain to a student who fails to respond to the knowledge of God what he has to do to progress spiritually. You might keep in touch periodically, leaving the way open for him to take the steps that lead to everlasting life. —Eccl. 12:13.

24 A new disciple who embraces the truth and gets baptized will have much more growing to do in his knowledge and understanding in order to become fully stabilized in the faith. (Col. 2:6, 7) Rather than continue his home Bible study after you complete the *Knowledge* book, you can make yourself available to provide any personal assistance he may need in order to mature spiritually. (Gal. 6:10; Heb. 6:1) For his part, he can round out his understanding by reading the Bible daily, personally studying *The Watchtower* and other publications of the 'faithful slave,' preparing for and attending the meetings, and discussing the truth with fellow believers. (Matt. 24:45-47; Ps. 1:2; Acts 2:41, 42; Col. 1:9, 10) His reading the *Our Ministry* book and applying what it contains will play a vital role in his becoming theocratically organized to accomplish his ministry fully.—2 Tim. 2:2; 4:5.

25 **Develop the Art of Teaching:** We have been commissioned to "make disciples of people . . . , teaching them." (Matt. 28:19, 20) Since the art of teaching is inseparably linked to disciple making, we want to strive to improve as teachers. (1 Tim. 4:16; 2 Tim. 4:2) For additional suggestions on how to develop the art of teaching, you may wish to read: "Developing the Art of Teaching" and "Reaching the Heart of Your Listeners" in the *School Guidebook,* studies 10 and 15; "Teacher, Teaching" in *Insight,* Volume 2; and the *Watchtower* articles "Building With Fire-Resistant Materials" and "When You Teach, Reach the Heart," August 1, 1984; "Do You Effectively Reason From the Scriptures?," March 1, 1986; and "How to Find Joy in Disciple Making," February 15, 1996.

26 As you endeavor to make disciples, using the *Knowledge* book, always pray that Jehovah, the one "who makes it grow," will bless your efforts in reaching human hearts with the Kingdom good news. (1 Cor. 3:5-7) May you experience the joy of teaching others to understand, to appreciate, and to act on the knowledge that leads to everlasting life!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Literature offer for **June:** *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life.* **July and August:** Any of the following 32-page brochures: *Does God Really Care About Us?*, *Enjoy Life on Earth Forever!*, *"Look! I Am Making All Things New," Should You Believe in the Trinity?*, *The Government That Will Bring Paradise*, *What Is the Purpose of Life—How Can You Find It?*, and *When Someone You Love Dies.* Where appropriate, brochures such as *Our Problems—Who Will Help Us Solve Them?*, *Spirits of the Dead—Can They Help You or Harm You? Do They Really Exist?*, and *Will There Ever Be a World Without War?* may be offered. **September:** *Life—How Did It Get Here? By Evolution or by Creation?* Congregations having *You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth* or *Making Your Family Life Happy* in stock may offer these books.

- Beginning the week of September 9, 1996, and running through the week of September 29, 1997, the book *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived* will be considered at the Congregation Book Study.

- The presiding overseer or someone designated by him should audit the congregation's accounts on June 1 or as soon as possible thereafter. Make announcement to congregation when this has been done.

- If it is necessary to write or telephone the Society's Legal Department, please use the following address or telephone number as of June 1, 1996: 100 Watchtower Drive, Patterson, NY 12563-9204, telephone (914) 878-7000.

- New Publications Available:

Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life —Arabic, Indonesian, Kinyarwanda, Kirundi, Maltese, Punjabi, Samoan, Tahitian, Turkish, Tuvaluan

Sing Praises to Jehovah (Lyrics only) —Arabic

Watch Tower Publications Index 1991-1994 —French

When Someone You Love Dies —Myanmar

You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth (Small size) —Georgian

- New Diskettes Available:

New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures—With References/Insight on the Scriptures on 5 1/4-inch diskettes —Italian

- New Videocassettes Available:

The Bible—Accurate History, Reliable Prophecy —Czech

The Bible—Mankind's Oldest Modern Book —Arabic, Chinese (Cantonese), Chinese (Mandarin), Greek, Portuguese

United by Divine Teaching —French, Japanese, Spanish

CONGREGATION BOOK STUDY

Schedule for congregation studies in the book *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life.*

June 3:	**Chapter 6**
June 10:	**Chapter 7**
June 17:	**Chapter 8**
June 24:	**Chapter 9**

MARCH SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**188**	**122.7**	**81.5**	**55.2**	**4.9**
Pios.	**72,728**	**78.5**	**40.7**	**25.6**	**2.4**
Aux. Pios.	**27,711**	**58.1**	**32.4**	**16.0**	**1.3**
Pubs.	**813,714**	**9.7**	**6.5**	**3.7**	**0.4**
TOTAL	**914,341**		Baptized: **2,953**		

Friendly Conversations Can Reach the Heart

[1] Conversation can be defined as an "oral exchange of ideas." Starting friendly conversations on a topic that concerns others may capture their interest and can aid us in reaching their hearts with the Kingdom message. Experience has shown that it is far more effective to engage people in a friendly and relaxed conversation than to give them a sermon.

[2] **How to Start a Friendly Conversation:** Our being able to converse with others does not mean that we have to present some striking lineup of thoughts and scriptures. It simply involves getting the other party to talk with us. For example, when we have a friendly conversation with our next-door neighbor, it is not rigid but relaxed. We are not thinking about our next words but are responding naturally to the ideas he expresses. Showing genuine interest in what he says may encourage him to continue conversing with us. The same should be true when witnessing to others.

[3] Topics such as crime, the problems of youth, local issues, world conditions, or even the weather can be used to start friendly conversations. Subjects that directly affect the lives of people are very effective in arousing their interest. Once a conversation has been started, we can gently turn it toward the Kingdom message.

[4] Having a relaxed conversation does not mean that advance preparation is not necessary. It is. However, there is no need to formulate a rigid outline or to memorize a sermon, which would result in a conversation that is not flexible or adaptable to the circumstances at hand. (Compare 1 Corinthians 9:20-23.) An excellent way of preparing is to select one or two Scriptural themes, with a view to building conversations around them. Reviewing subjects found in the *Reasoning* book will prove helpful for this.

[5] **Essential Qualities for a Friendly Conversation:** When we converse with others, we should be warm and sincere. A smile and a cheerful appearance help to reflect these qualities. We have the best message in the world; it is most appealing to honesthearted ones. If they feel that our interest in them is motivated by a sincere desire to share some good news with them, then they may be moved to listen.—2 Cor. 2:17.

[6] Engaging in conversation ought to be a pleasant experience. Therefore, we should be kind and tactful in presenting the Kingdom message. (Gal. 5:22; Col. 4:6) Strive to leave the other party with a favorable impression. This way, even if we are not successful initially in reaching his heart, he may be more receptive the next time a Witness converses with him.

[7] Starting a friendly conversation is not the result of mastering a complex sermon. It is simply a matter of arousing interest in a subject that is of concern to a person. Once we have prepared in advance, we will then be ready to engage people in friendly conversations. Let us endeavor to reach the hearts of those whom we meet by sharing with them the best news to be found, that of everlasting Kingdom blessings.—2 Pet. 3:13.

Spreading the Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life

1 Jehovah is "the One teaching men knowledge." (Ps. 94:10) He uses us to spread lifesaving knowledge about him to those who are unaware of how to serve him acceptably. The book *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life* is a fine teaching instrument through which honesthearted ones can gain an accurate understanding of God from his written Word, the Bible. (1 Tim. 2:3, 4) The *Knowledge* book's clear and logical development of the truth will help people to grasp what Jehovah is seeking to teach them. This month we want to engage people in conversations that will cause them to want to read the book. Here are some suggestions. Rather than attempt to memorize these, try to express the key thoughts in your own words and natural manner of conversing.

2 ***Since most people have lost a loved one in death, you could work the resurrection hope into a conversation by first saying something like this:***

■ "Most of us have lost a loved one in death. Have you wondered whether you will see such a one again? [Allow for response.] Death was not part of God's original purpose for man. Jesus proved that our loved ones can be rescued from death. [Read John 11:11, 25, 44.] Even though this took place centuries ago, it demonstrates what God has promised to do for us. [Open the *Knowledge* book to the picture on page 85 and read the caption. Then show the picture on page 86 and comment on it.] If you would like to read more about this comforting hope of the resurrection, I'd be pleased to leave this book with you."

3 ***After the initial discussion about the resurrection hope, you could begin the next conversation with the same person in this way:***

■ "You may recall my saying that death was not part of God's original purpose for man. If that's true, why do we grow old and die? Some turtles live over 100 years, and there are trees that have been alive for thousands of years. Why do humans live only 70 or 80 years? [Allow for response.] We die because the first human pair disobeyed God." Read Romans 5:12. Turn to page 53 in the *Knowledge* book and read the chapter title. Consider the first three paragraphs, pointing out the answers to the printed questions. Make an appointment to return later to discuss the rest of the chapter. Encourage the person to finish reading it in the meantime.

4 ***If you speak to a person who appears to be religious, you might say:***

■ "There are literally hundreds of different religions today. They teach all kinds of conflicting beliefs. Some people say that all religions are good and it makes no difference what we believe. What is your opinion? [Allow for response.] Jesus taught the true religion and showed that other forms of worship are unacceptable to God. [Read Matthew 7:21-23.] If we want to please God, we must worship him in harmony with his will." Open the *Knowledge* book to chapter 5, read the title, and point out some of the subheadings. Explain that this information will help one learn how to please God. Offer to leave the book if there is a promise to read it, and mention that you do accept donations for our worldwide work.

5 ***People who are confused because there are so many religions might appreciate the answer to this question on your return visit:***

■ "With so many different religions in existence today, how can we tell which is the right one? What would you look for? [Allow for response.] Jesus told us how to identify his true followers." Read John 13:35. Consider paragraphs 18 and 19 in chapter 5 of the *Knowledge* book. Point out that by using these Scriptural guidelines and the process of elimination, a person can recognize the true religion. Relate how Jehovah's Witnesses are known the world over for their genuine love and high moral standards. Explain how a study of the Bible, using the *Knowledge* book, will clearly identify the form of worship that God approves.

6 ***If you meet a parent, this approach might be effective:***

■ "Every day, we hear reports about the unruly conduct of youths who seem to have no moral values whatsoever. Some adults want to blame the school system for not teaching children the difference between right and wrong. Who do you think should provide this training? [Allow for response.] Listen to what the Bible says on this question. [Read Ephesians 6:4.] That tells us that instilling moral values in children is the parents' responsibility." Open the *Knowledge* book to page 145, read paragraph 16, and comment on the pictures on page 147. Explain that the book is designed for the entire family to study. Using paragraphs 17 and 18 on page 146, offer to demonstrate how we conduct such a study with families.

7 ***If you started a study with a concerned parent on the initial call, you might continue it on the return visit by saying:***

■ "Today's world places many temptations before our young ones. This makes it so difficult for them to become God-fearing as they grow up. Perhaps you remember that in our last discussion, we isolated two principles. As godly parents, we need to set fine examples for our children, and we should provide constant expressions of our love for them. There is another thing that the Bible says children need from their parents." Read Proverbs 1:8. Turn to page 148 in the *Knowledge* book and continue the study, covering paragraphs 19-23. Suggest that you return again to study with the entire family, starting with chapter 1.

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OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

July 1996 For United States of America Vol. 39, No. 7

Fulfilling Our Vow Day After Day

[1] The psalmist David was moved to declare to Jehovah: "I will make melody to your name forever, that I may pay my vows day after day." (Ps. 61:8) David knew that the making of a vow is a wholly voluntary matter. However, he also appreciated that if he made a vow, he was obligated to fulfill it. Even so, he praised Jehovah for the opportunity to fulfill his vows day after day.

[2] When we made our dedication to Jehovah, we willingly vowed to do his will. We disowned ourselves and made serving Jehovah our primary pursuit in life. (Luke 9:23) Hence, we too must pay our vow day after day. (Eccl. 5:4-6) Our public declaration made at the time of water baptism must be reflected in our entire pattern of life, since we know that "with the mouth one makes public declaration for salvation." (Rom. 10:10) This includes preaching the good news. (Heb. 13:15) Personal circumstances vary greatly, but day after day all of us can keep in focus the importance of sharing the good news with others.

[3] **Make Opportunities to Preach Daily:** Sharing the good news with someone else is a joyful experience. In order to do this daily, we have to make opportunities to preach whenever our circumstances permit. Many happy experiences have been enjoyed by those who have taken the initiative to witness informally to individuals at work or in school and to neighbors or others they encounter each day. Even writing letters or using the telephone can be a means of witnessing to others. Taking advantage of all these means as well as setting aside time regularly for witnessing from door to door and making return visits can lead to the special joy that comes from conducting a home Bible study. Yes, each day we may be able to create opportunities to preach.

[4] A sister began reading *Examining the Scriptures Daily* during her work break. She invited a workmate to read the day's text with her, and that soon led to a Bible study with the woman. They studied for half an hour each day, five days a week. Another workmate observed their daily study. He eventually identified himself as an inactive brother. Moved by the sister's zeal, he contacted an elder in order to become reactivated. This sister touched two other lives in a positive way because of following through in fulfilling her vow day after day.

[5] When we are motivated by a heart brimming with appreciation for all the good things Jehovah has done for us, fulfilling our dedication vow as best we can each day will bring us joy and satisfaction. Like the psalmist, we can declare: "I laud you, O Jehovah my God, with all my heart, and I will glorify your name to time indefinite."—Ps. 86:12.

Have You Tried Evening Witnessing?

[1] All of us find pleasure in being productive in our work. On the other hand, when we are unable to see positive results, work can become tedious and unfulfilling. Meaningful labor is personally rewarding, and it is a blessing. (Compare Ecclesiastes 3:10-13.) We can apply this principle to our preaching work. We know from experience that when we go from door to door and are able to converse with people about the Bible, we return home spiritually refreshed. We feel that we have really accomplished something.

[2] In some areas it has become very difficult to find people at home during certain hours of the day. Reports indicate that in many places more than 50 percent of the people are not at home when we call early in the day. Many congregations have dealt with this problem by making arrangements for evening witnessing, and they have met with good success. Publishers report that when they call later in the day, more people are at home, and in general, people tend to be more relaxed and more inclined to listen to the Kingdom message. Have you tried evening witnessing in your territory?—Compare Mark 1:32-34.

[3] **Elders Organize Evening Witnessing:** In some areas meetings for field service in the late afternoon or early evening have been well supported. Consideration can be given to young publishers who get out of school in the afternoon and to adults who have finished their secular work by later in the day. Some publishers who are not able to be out in field service on weekends find that evening witnessing during the week is a practical way for them to have a regular share in the preaching work.

[4] There are various activities you can engage in during evening witnessing. You can witness from house to house with magazines or use the literature offer for the month. Evening is a fine time to call on people who were not at home when publishers called earlier in the day or on weekends. There might also be good territory for street witnessing, allowing you to contact people coming home from work. Many find that the evening is the best time to make return visits on those who have shown interest.

[5] **Be Cautious and Discreet:** Going out at dusk or after dark could be hazardous in certain areas. It would be wise to travel in pairs or groups on well-lit streets and visit homes or apartment buildings only where there is some assurance that you will be safe. When you knock at the door, stand where you can be seen, and clearly identify yourself. Be discerning. When you observe that you have called at an inopportune time, as when the family is eating, offer to call at another time. Usually it is best to confine your witnessing to the early evening hours, rather than make late calls, when householders may be getting ready to retire for the night.

[6] Long summer evenings are particularly appropriate for evening witnessing. As we render God "sacred service day and night," Jehovah will certainly bless our efforts.—Rev. 7:15.

SERVICE MEETINGS FOR JULY

Week Starting July 1

Song 90

12 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Comment on April field service report for the country and local congregation.

15 min: "Fulfilling Our Vow Day After Day." Questions and answers. Include comments from *Insight,* Volume 2, page 1162, paragraphs 6-7, showing why a vow is a serious obligation.

18 min: "Imitate Jehovah by Genuinely Caring for Others." (Paragraphs 1-3) Use the first paragraph to develop the theme of the article. Determine which brochures currently in stock in the congregation may be well received in your territory. Then review paragraphs 2-3 only, and demonstrate how both the initial call and the return visit can be handled with the brochure *Does God Really Care About Us?* Show how publishers might make up their own presentation for another brochure that would be appropriate for local territory. Include suggestions on how to mention that donations for the worldwide work are gladly accepted.

Song 112 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting July 8

Song 43

10 min: Local announcements. Accounts report.

15 min: "Imitate Jehovah by Genuinely Caring for Others." (Paragraphs 4-5) Discuss only paragraphs 4-5 and some highlights of the brochure *When Someone You Love Dies.* Then demonstrate the suggested presentations for the initial call and the return visit.

20 min: "More Brothers Are Needed in the Pioneer Service." Questions and answers. As time permits, review suggestions on how to care for financial needs, as discussed in the September 15, 1993, *Watchtower,* pages 28-31.

Song 16 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting July 15

Song 162

10 min: Local announcements.

20 min: "Have You Tried Evening Witnessing?" A talk with audience participation and some interviews. Relate what has been observed locally when working the territory later in the day. Include experiences showing positive results from evening witnessing. Outline the local weekly schedule of meetings for service.

15 min: "Imitate Jehovah by Genuinely Caring for Others." (Paragraphs 6-8) Use the last paragraph of the article to encourage all to make return visits promptly on those with whom brochures are placed. Using paragraphs 6-7, demonstrate how to offer the *Purpose of Life* brochure on the initial call and how to start a study in the first chapter of the *Knowledge* book on the return visit. Remind publishers that they can make up their own presentations for other brochures, following model of presentations suggested in *Our Kingdom Ministry.*

Song 64 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting July 22

Song 108

10 min: Local announcements. Briefly review latest issues of the magazines, pointing out interesting highlights that might be used in presenting them at the door.

15 min: Pursue the Goal of Full-Time Service. Discussion between an elder and one or two teenagers, based on December 15, 1988, *Watchtower,* pages 25-7. The youths are trying to decide what goals they will pursue after finishing high school. They show interest in material advantages offered by worldly careers. Elder points out good reasons why it would be far better to reach out for pioneer service. Teenagers agree but doubt they can pioneer and provide for themselves materially. Elder shares experiences from the *Watchtower* article, showing that pioneer service is a reasonable, attainable goal that brings joy to many. Discussion ends with teenagers expressing appreciation for the elder's comments and their determination to give serious thought to pursuing the goal of having a full share in Kingdom service.

20 min: "How to Make Disciples With the *Knowledge* Book." A talk covering paragraphs 12-16 of the June 1996 insert. Include two demonstrations of a Bible study in progress. The first shows how to train the student to prepare the lesson by highlighting or underlining key words and phrases that most directly answer the printed questions. The second demonstrates what you might say to encourage the Bible student to attend the Public Meeting and *Watchtower* Study.

Song 116 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting July 29

Song 212

10 min: Local announcements. Review "New Circuit Assembly Program."

20 min: What Does It Take to Get a Bible Study? An elder directs discussion between two or three who have found success in the Bible study work, reviewing ways to be more successful in starting studies: (1) Pray for Jehovah's help. (2) Share regularly in various features of the ministry to find interested ones. (3) Record all interest, and make prompt return visits. (4) Always offer a study where interest is shown. (See the subheading "Getting Bible Studies Started," on page 20 of the February 15, 1996, *Watchtower*.) (5) Build confidence in your ability to teach by using the four suggestions outlined on pages 13-17 of the August 1, 1984, *Watchtower*.

15 min: Local Needs. Or an elder gives a talk on "Comfort and Encouragement—Gems of Many Facets," from the January 15, 1996, *Watchtower,* pages 21-3.

Song 165 and concluding prayer.

CONGREGATION BOOK STUDY

Schedule for congregation studies in the book *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life.*

July 1:	**Chapter 10**
July 8:	**Chapter 11**
July 15:	**Chapter 12**
July 22:	**Chapter 13**
July 29:	**Chapter 14**

APRIL SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**204**	**123.5**	**98.3**	**52.5**	**4.8**
Pios.	**72,627**	**80.1**	**49.5**	**26.0**	**2.4**
Aux. Pios.	**54,496**	**57.7**	**39.0**	**14.7**	**1.1**
Pubs.	**807,286**	**9.8**	**7.2**	**3.6**	**0.4**
TOTAL	**934,613**			Baptized:	**3,162**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **July and August:** Any of the following 32-page brochures: *Does God Really Care About Us?*, *Enjoy Life on Earth Forever!*, *"Look! I Am Making All Things New," Should You Believe in the Trinity?*, *The Government That Will Bring Paradise*, *What Is the Purpose of Life—How Can You Find It?*, and *When Someone You Love Dies.* Where appropriate, brochures such as *Our Problems—Who Will Help Us Solve Them?*, *Spirits of the Dead—Can They Help You or Harm You? Do They Really Exist?*, and *Will There Ever Be a World Without War?* may be offered. **September:** *Life—How Did It Get Here? By Evolution or by Creation?* Congregations having *You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth* or *Making Your Family Life Happy* in stock may offer these books. **October:** Individual copies of both *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* Where interest is found on return visits, subscriptions may be offered.

■ Starting in September, circuit overseers will give the public talk entitled "Who Is Like Jehovah Our God?"

■ *Awake!* and *The Watchtower* on audiocassette are now being produced in Finnish.

■ Quarterly editions of *Awake!* are now available in Latvian and Lithuanian.

■ New Publications Available:

Comfort for the Depressed (Tract No. 20) —Sinhalese

Enjoy Family Life (Tract No. 21) —Sinhalese

■ New Braille Publications Available:

Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life (two volumes) —Grade-two German

Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life (three volumes) —Grade-one Italian, Grade-one Spanish

Please mark requests for Braille publications ATTENTION: BRAILLE DESK. Include name and address of the person who will use the Braille material.

■ New Videocassettes Available:

To the Ends of the Earth —Spanish

More Brothers Are Needed in the Pioneer Service

[1] Paul urged us 'always to have plenty to do in the work of the Lord.' (1 Cor. 15:58) For many, this means taking up the pioneer service. This past September, more than 5,000 were added to the pioneer ranks!

[2] Presently the greater number of those serving as pioneers in this country are sisters. (Ps. 68:11) What a joy it would be for the congregation if more brothers could join the ranks of full-time servants! (Ps. 110:3) It is understandable that many brothers have to care for heavy secular and family obligations. Others also work hard to care for the spiritual needs of the congregation. We appreciate these men who are exerting themselves in behalf of the Kingdom. —1 Tim. 4:10.

[3] Even so, could more of you brothers take up pioneer service? If your wife is pioneering, can you join her? If you are retired, would you not agree that there is no more satisfying way to spend your time than in the full-time ministry? If you are just finishing school, have you given serious and prayerful thought to taking up the pioneer service as a steppingstone to additional privileges of service?—Eph. 5:15-17.

[4] One brother sold his prosperous business and took part-time work so that he could pioneer. With his fine lead, three of his four children became pioneers as soon as they finished school. The fourth was eager to join them. This brother and his family have been richly blessed.

[5] **A Large Door Is Open:** Pioneer service can open "a large door that leads to activity." (1 Cor. 16:9) Brothers who are pioneers may be used extensively in the congregation. Zealous field activity adds to their spiritual stature and contributes to their theocratic progress. Pioneering can open up the way to added privileges of service. After the first year of pioneering, there is the blessing of attending Pioneer Service School. Single ministerial servants and elders may reach out to attend the Ministerial Training School. Married couples who are qualified may apply for Gilead School. Brothers may eventually qualify for the traveling work. Yes, the pioneer ministry opens the door to these greater privileges of service in Jehovah's organization.

[6] Brothers who can make room for regular pioneer service may experience the greater happiness that comes with increased giving.—Acts 20:35.

New Circuit Assembly Program

[1] The new circuit assembly program beginning in September will develop the theme "Experience the Greater Happiness in Giving." (Acts 20:35) Happiness is described as "a state of well-being and contentment." Most people today snatch whatever pleasure they can from life, and when they do, it often is temporary. That is not true happiness. Yet, Jehovah teaches us how to benefit ourselves forever. (Isa. 48:17; 1 John 2:17) The new circuit assembly program will emphasize how we can gain greater happiness by giving in a spiritual way.

[2] We will learn practical ways in which we can give of ourselves in the ministry. Some of the talks to be given by the traveling overseers are entitled: "Making Friends by Means of Unrighteous Riches," "Respect Divine Provision of 'Gifts in Men,'" and "Experience the Many Facets of True Happiness." Those desiring to be baptized at the assembly will want to speak to the presiding overseer so that he can arrange for elders to review baptismal questions with them. Serving Jehovah in a clean relationship will bring great happiness to the newly baptized ones.

[3] Proper recognition of Jehovah's authority also brings true happiness and security. All people need to know this. Hence, the public address at the circuit assembly will develop the theme "Unite With God's Happy People." Be sure to invite all those who have shown an interest in the truth to come to this talk. They have not found genuine security and lasting happiness under human rule in this world, which is lying in Satan's power. (Eccl. 8:9) But what joy they will find in being associated with Jehovah's happy people!—Ps. 144:15b.

[4] Despite worsening conditions in this system of things, those who experience the greater happiness in giving spiritually will never be disappointed by the happy God. (1 Tim. 1:11) The new circuit assembly program will demonstrate this to be true. Do not miss it!

Imitate Jehovah by Genuinely Caring for Others

1 Jehovah is the greatest example of one who manifests genuine care for others. As the Universal Sovereign, he is sensitive to the needs of his human creation. (1 Pet. 5:7) Jesus encouraged his followers to manifest the traits of his Father, who makes the sun rise and the rain fall upon righteous and unrighteous people. (Matt. 5:45) You can imitate Jehovah by showing genuine concern for others —being prepared to share the Kingdom message with everyone you meet. By being thoroughly familiar with the brochures that will be used in the ministry during July, you will be in a good position to offer spiritual assistance to others. The following suggestions offer some ideas as to how you may prepare for the initial call and then follow up interest with timely return visits.

2 ***When offering the brochure "Does God Really Care About Us?" you could say:***

■ "Have you ever wondered why God permits humans to suffer if he really cares about them? [Allow for response.] This brochure not only provides the satisfying answer to this question but also shows that God has promised to undo all the damage man has brought upon himself and his earthly home." Read paragraph 23 on page 27. Show the illustration below it, and read Psalm 145:16 from paragraph 22. Offer the brochure. If it is accepted, ask a question that can be answered on the next visit, such as: "Would you like to know *how* God will accomplish his purpose of bringing blessings to mankind and transforming the earth into a paradise?" Be sure to mention that our worldwide work is supported by voluntary donations.

3 ***When returning to those with whom you placed the brochure "Does God Really Care About Us?" you might get another discussion started this way:***

■ "When I called last time, we considered that God does indeed care for us and that it is his purpose to undo all the damage man has brought upon himself and his earthly home." Open the brochure to the illustration on pages 2-3 and say: "We ended our conversation with the question, How will God accomplish his purpose of bringing blessings to mankind and transforming the earth into a paradise? What do you think?" Allow for response. Turn to page 17, and read paragraph 2 and Daniel 2:44. Thereafter, read paragraph 12 on page 18. Ask householder if he would like to consider with you part 9 of the brochure. If he would, study it with him.

4 ***Here is an approach that might be used in offering the brochure "When Someone You Love Dies." Show its cover and say:***

■ "Today we are sharing this brochure that has brought comfort and hope to millions of people who have lost loved ones in death. Have you ever wondered what hope there is for the dead? [Allow for response.] The Bible clearly states God's promise of a resurrection." Read John 5:28, 29. Open the brochure and comment on the points made in the last paragraph on page 28 and the first paragraph on page 31. Show the accompanying illustrations. Offer the brochure. You can prepare the way for a return visit by asking, "How can we be sure that eventually death will be completely eliminated?"

5 ***Where you placed the brochure "When Someone You Love Dies," you may want to use this presentation on the return visit:***

■ "When we spoke before, we discussed the wonderful hope of a resurrection. The brochure I left you explains why we can be sure that eventually death will be completely eliminated. Did you not find God's promises comforting and reassuring?" Allow for response. Then turn to page 31 in the brochure, and read the second and third paragraphs, along with Revelation 21:1-4. Highlight the prospect we have of enjoying life without ever dying. Depending on the interest shown and the circumstances at the moment, you may offer a Bible study in the *Knowledge* book or ask another question to open the way for the next return visit.

6 ***You might say the following when presenting the brochure "What Is the Purpose of Life—How Can You Find It?":***

■ "Many people have wondered what the purpose of life is. They've asked themselves: 'Why am I here? Where am I going? What does the future hold for me?' Where do you think we can find the answers? [Allow for response.] Notice what the Bible says. [Read Psalm 36:9.] Is it not reasonable to conclude that man's Creator is in the best position to explain why we are here? [Allow for response.] This brochure shows the grand purpose that God has in store for us." Turn to pages 20-1, read the caption, and comment on the illustration; then offer the brochure. If accepted, ask: "How can we be sure it is still God's purpose for humans to live forever in Paradise on earth?" Explain the donation arrangement. Set up a time to return.

7 ***If the brochure "What Is the Purpose of Life—How Can You Find It?" is placed, you could say something like this when you return:***

■ "On my previous visit, I really enjoyed discussing with you the Bible's view that human life really does have a purpose." Show the illustration on page 31 and ask, "How can we be sure it is still God's will that humans are to live forever in Paradise on earth?" Read paragraph 3 on page 20. Discuss points under the subheading, "Still God's Purpose," on page 21. Turn to the back cover of the brochure, and read about the offer of a free home Bible study. Introduce the *Knowledge* book, and offer to demonstrate how we use it as an aid to study the Bible.

8 Our ministry should reflect the sincere interest that we have in helping honesthearted ones to "come to an accurate knowledge of truth." (1 Tim. 2:4) Therefore, make time in your service schedule to call back on each person with whom you place a brochure. Your manifesting real concern for them may result in helping those who are sighing and groaning over the detestable things practiced in false religion to become identified for survival. (Ezek. 9:4, 6) You will also experience the joy and satisfaction that come from knowing you are imitating Jehovah by genuinely caring for others.—Compare Philippians 2:20.

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OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

August 1996 For United States of America Vol. 39, No. 8

No Letup in Declaring the Good News

[1] The early Christians took their ministry very seriously. Luke reported: "Every day in the temple and from house to house they continued without letup teaching and declaring the good news about the Christ, Jesus." (Acts 5:42) Nothing, not even persecution, could hold them back! (Acts 8:4) They spoke to others about the truth every day.

[2] What about us? Ask yourself: 'Do I sense the urgency of the times? Am I inclined to continue declaring the good news without letup?'

[3] **Modern-Day Examples of Preaching Without Letup:** One sister, a victim of polio, was confined to an iron lung. She was not able to go to the Kingdom Hall or attend an assembly. But she was intensely occupied with declaring the good news. During her 37-year confinement, she was able to help 17 people learn the truth! How did she do it? Although unable to go from door to door, she found a way each day to witness informally to those who came in contact with her.

[4] Our brothers in Bosnia have had to cope with war and deprivation. Nevertheless, they regularly continue to preach to others. In Sarajevo the publishers have been averaging 20 hours each month talking to others about the good news, and they conduct an average of two Bible studies each. Despite their severe circumstances, they preach and teach without letup.

[5] Young ones also manifest zeal for the ministry. A family of Witnesses in Rwanda were put in a room where soldiers prepared to kill them. The family asked permission to pray first. This was granted, and the young daughter, Deborah, prayed out loud: "Jehovah, this week Papa and I placed five magazines. How are we going to get back to these people to teach them the truth and help them get life?" Because of her strong faith and her love for the ministry, the entire family was spared.

[6] Today, there is a need to watch for opportunities to witness to others and search out those "rightly disposed for everlasting life." (Acts 13:48) In accord with local circumstances, congregation elders make arrangements for group witnessing at convenient times, whether in the mornings, afternoons, or evenings. Articles in *Our Kingdom Ministry* and parts on Service Meetings, circuit assemblies, and district conventions offer timely suggestions and encouragement to share in various avenues of Kingdom witnessing. Added to this, circuit and district overseers train publishers in street witnessing, show how to work business territory, and point out other ways to give a witness wherever people are to be found. All of this emphasizes no letup in declaring the good news!

[7] Jesus' apostles boldly declared: "We cannot stop speaking about the things we have seen and heard." How did they persevere in spite of all obstacles? They asked Jehovah to help them, which he did, and "they were one and all filled with the holy spirit and were speaking the word of God with boldness." (Acts 4:20, 29, 31) Everyone may not be blessed with outstanding experiences in the ministry, but if we truly desire to declare the good news without letup and if we put forth the effort to do so even on a daily basis, Jehovah will help us.

Who Is Qualified to Preach?

[1] When it comes to the ministry, have you ever felt like Moses? He said: "Excuse me, Jehovah, but I am not a fluent speaker, neither since yesterday nor since before that nor since your speaking to your servant." (Ex. 4:10) If you feel that way, you may be inclined to hold back. Yet, Jesus "ordered us to preach to the people and to give a thorough witness." (Acts 10:42) So how do we become qualified preachers of the good news?

[2] It is not the extent of our secular education that qualifies us for the ministry. Paul said that "not many wise in a fleshly way were called" and that "the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God." (1 Cor. 1:26; 3:19) Jesus selected his apostles from among the working class—at least four being fishermen by trade. The proud religious leaders viewed them with disdain as "men unlettered and ordinary." Judged by worldly standards, the apostles were unqualified to preach. Yet, Peter's masterful discourse delivered on the day of Pentecost moved 3,000 to be baptized!—Acts 2:14, 37-41; 4:13.

[3] **Jehovah Qualifies Us to Preach:** Paul declared: "Our being adequately qualified issues from God." (2 Cor. 3:5) Jehovah, the Source of wisdom, has taught millions to preach Kingdom truth to others. (Isa. 54:13) The effectiveness and fruitfulness of this work can be seen in the 338,491 who were baptized last year as living "letters of recommendation." (2 Cor. 3:1-3) We have every reason to preach with boldness and conviction about the things we have learned from Jehovah.

[4] God's organization has established an international training program for ministers. By means of the Scriptures and a great variety of Bible study aids, we are schooled and trained to become "fully competent, completely equipped" to preach. (2 Tim. 3:16, 17) Many have been impressed with the scholarship found in the Society's publications. For example, a Swedish periodical stated: "Behind the faith being preached by Jehovah's Witnesses there is an amazing high-class and internationally oriented Bible science."

[5] With the direction given in our five weekly meetings, our program for Bible reading and study, counseling in the Theocratic Ministry School, personal assistance by others who are experienced ministers, and above all, the backing of Jehovah's holy spirit, we can be confident that Jehovah views us as fully qualified to preach. "Yes, as sent from God, under God's view, in company with Christ, we are speaking."—2 Cor. 2:17.

[6] If we take full advantage of the theocratic training provided by God through his organization, we have no reason to hold back or feel intimidated. We can joyfully preach to others, assured that Jehovah will bless our efforts.—1 Cor. 3:6.

SERVICE MEETINGS FOR AUGUST

Week Starting August 5

Song 56

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.*

20 min: "No Letup in Declaring the Good News." Talk and audience discussion. Include excerpts from *Insight on the Scriptures,* Volume 2, page 673, paragraph 1.

15 min: "Proclaim the Kingdom Good News With Brochures." (Paragraphs 1-5) Use first paragraph in introductory talk. Make positive comments about the advantages of using the *Life on Earth* and *"Look!"* brochures in the ministry. Arrange four well-rehearsed demonstrations, showing how the initial calls and return visits can be handled with these brochures. Have a young publisher, assisted by his parent, demonstrate the presentations with the *Life on Earth* brochure. Publishers may wish to pattern their presentations of other brochures on those here suggested.

Song 136 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting August 12

Song 192

15 min: Local announcements. Accounts report. Include positive comments on "Ways to Share," in December 1, 1993, *Watchtower,* pages 29-31.

15 min: "Proclaim the Kingdom Good News With Brochures." (Paragraphs 6-8) Give a brief overview of the contents of the *Government* brochure. Demonstrate the suggested presentations for the initial call and return visit. Encourage all to follow up their placements.

15 min: "Contributions to Society's Worldwide Work Support Expansion." Enthusiastic talk by elder. Include some statistics on progress of Kingdom work in some of the countries represented, as reported in *Yearbook.*

Song 9 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting August 19

Song 174

10 min: Local announcements. Review Question Box.

15 min: "Who Is Qualified to Preach?" An elder discusses article with two or three publishers. Emphasize that we are receiving the best training available, fully equipping us as ministers of God. We have no reason to feel inadequate to preach.

20 min: "How to Make Disciples With the *Knowledge* Book." Audience discussion of paragraphs 17-26 of the June 1996 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert. Arrange ahead of time to include local experiences of those who are conducting studies in the *Knowledge* book. They can make positive expressions about how they have applied suggestions found in the insert and how they have been helped to conduct a more progressive home Bible study. Encourage all to save the insert and review it personally whenever they start a new study.

Song 189 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting August 26

Song 104

10 min: Local announcements. Review "New Special Assembly Day Program." Announce field service arrangements for September 2.

20 min: Taking an Interest in Your Children's Schooling. Talk by an elder. Review information in the brochure *Jehovah's Witnesses and Education,* pages 2-5, showing why we appreciate useful training provided in school. Discuss how to explain tactfully to teachers the reason why we keep spiritual goals rather than secular pursuits uppermost. Include points from "Conclusion," on page 31. Encourage parents to apply suggestions given in September 8, 1988, *Awake!,* page 11.

15 min: Review Literature Offer for September. We will use the book *Life —How Did It Get Here? By Evolution or by Creation?* Illustrate the versatility of this publication. Chapters 1-15 thoroughly research the controversy over how life got here; chapter 16 addresses a universally perplexing question, "Why Would God Permit Suffering?"; chapters 17-18 build faith in the Bible as being God's trustworthy, inspired Word; chapters 19-20 highlight the Kingdom good news about life on earth in Paradise and explain how to attain it. Have a capable publisher use one of these approaches to demonstrate a brief presentation of the *Creation* book. If the congregation still has in stock copies of *Making Your Family Life Happy* or *You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth,* these may be offered.

Song 113 and concluding prayer.

CONGREGATION BOOK STUDY

Schedule for congregation studies in the book *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life.*

August 5:	**Chapter 15**
August 12:	**Chapter 16**
August 19:	**Chapter 17**
August 26:	**Chapter 18**

QUESTION BOX

■ What should be done when an assigned public speaker fails to arrive in time for the meeting?

Occasionally, unavoidable circumstances will prevent a brother from arriving in time to give his scheduled talk. If there is reason to believe that he will arrive shortly, the elders may decide to go ahead with the *Watchtower* Study; the Public Meeting could follow afterward. What if it becomes apparent that the speaker will not arrive? Perhaps one of the local speakers could give any talk he has already prepared.

Careful advance planning usually prevents this problem. The public talk coordinator should contact each speaker at least a week in advance to remind him of his assignment. The reminder should include the time of the meeting, the Kingdom Hall address and phone number, and clear directions on how to locate the hall. The speaker must make careful note of these details. He should take the assignment seriously, making any needed adjustments in his personal affairs so that he can fulfill this responsibility. If something unavoidable comes up that will prevent him from doing so, he should contact the public talk coordinator immediately so that a substitute can be arranged. Every effort ought to be made to avoid last-minute cancellations. If the speaker is delayed and will be a few minutes late, he can see to it that a phone call is made to the Kingdom Hall so that the brothers will know how to proceed.

Appreciation for public talk assignments, good advance planning and reminders, and careful oversight can ensure that the congregation will be able to enjoy a beneficial public talk every week.

Contributions to Society's Worldwide Work Support Expansion

As foretold at Isaiah 54:2, 3, Jehovah's pure worship continues to expand throughout the earth. This includes various lands on the African continent and nearby islands. During the past ten years, restrictions on Kingdom activity have been lifted in such places as Angola, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, and Togo. In these and other lands where the field has been white for harvesting, Gilead missionaries, graduates of the Ministerial Training School, Bethel family members, and others have taken up assignments. —Matt. 9:37, 38.

Obviously, the increase of true worshipers in Jehovah's organization calls for the construction of hundreds of new Kingdom Halls. It has also been necessary to plan for Assembly Halls and new or expanded branch facilities. Financing these projects as well as keeping the Kingdom work moving forward not only in Africa but also in other parts of the world has drawn heavily on the contributions to the Society's worldwide work.

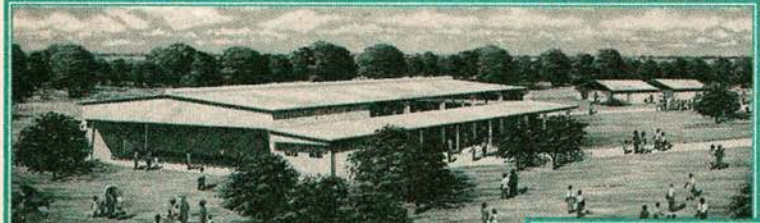
1-650 - 4% Bottom

Kingdom Hall in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, built in 9 days

1-500 6% Coast central

11/31 - Forestes
16-92-7

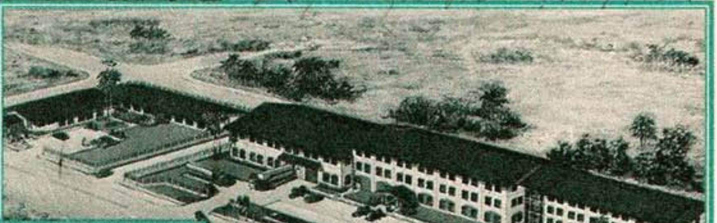
Economically built Kingdom Hall in Nigeria



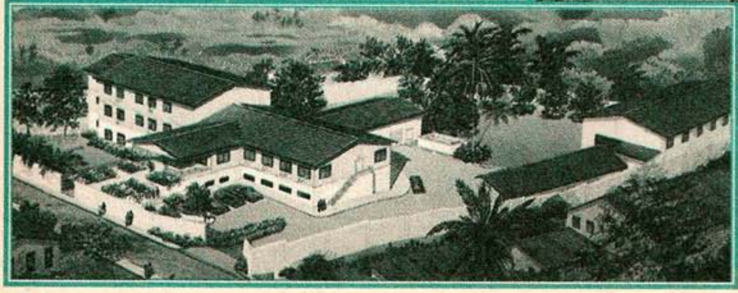
1-895 31% -above 3/4

Assembly Hall in Mozambique with seats for 1,500, to be completed by end of 1996

96/178, 181, 182, 184, 185



Mozambique branch facilities, to be ready for occupancy in fall of 1996



1-5865 4% west Coast

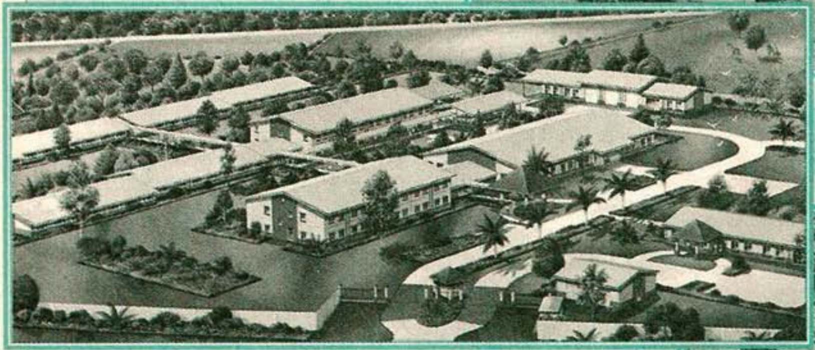
Sierra Leone branch, scheduled for completion this summer

1-880 7% Island Eastern Coast

ridu

Completed open-sided Assembly Hall in Mauritius, along with branch facilities, to be completed in spring of 1997

0/32 -Next door to Branch



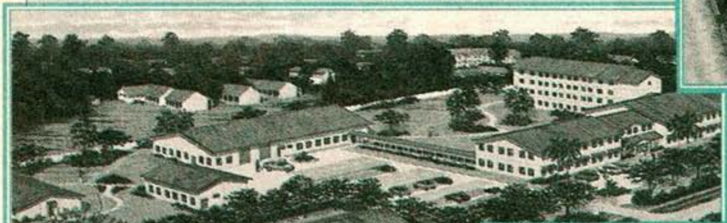
1-450 9%

Zimbabwe branch under construction

96/643

1-11,000 6%

Open-sided Assembly Hall and new branch under construction in Senegal



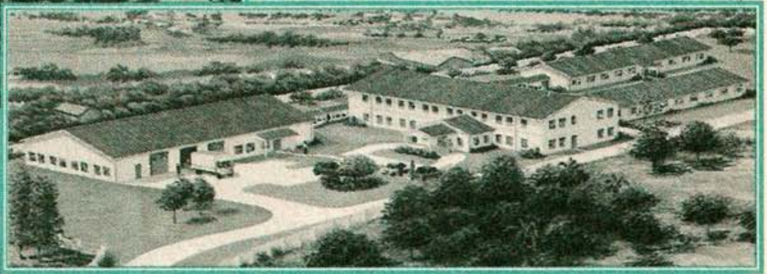
1-2600 13% E. Coast

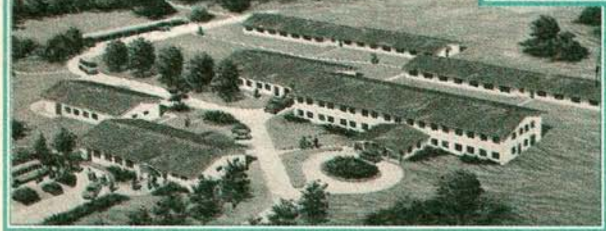
New Kenya branch, in capital, Nairobi

1-1800 16%

Madagascar branch, to be completed soon

Large Island-off Coast of S Africa





1-250 9%

Proposed branch buildings for Malawi

96/43?

The pictures and drawings on two pages of this insert give you some idea of what the Society has been endeavoring to accomplish in the African field. What is shown is some of the construction that is now under way and projects that will begin soon.

By checking the field service chart in the *1996 Yearbook*, you can get a better picture of what the publishers in these countries are doing in the ministry. Outstanding increases have taken place in many lands, and the potential for growth is reflected in the exceptional Memorial attendances. When we keep in mind what is being accomplished as part of the global Kingdom-preaching and disciple-making work on other continents, it impresses on us what a privilege we have to support in a material way the cause of true worship.—Luke 16:9; 1 Tim. 6:18.

Possession or desire can lead to lawless acts :- unrighteous riches

THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL REVIEW

Closed-book review on material covered in Theocratic Ministry School assignments for the weeks of May 6 to August 19, 1996. Use a separate sheet of paper to write down answers to as many of the questions as you can in the time allotted.

[Note: During the written review, only the Bible may be used to answer any question. References that follow the questions are for your personal research. Page and paragraph numbers may not appear on all references to *The Watchtower*.]

Answer each of the following statements True or False:

1. Whether we are able to give much or little, it is Scriptural to earnestly beg for the privilege of assisting our faithful Christian brothers who find themselves in need of life's necessities. (2 Cor. 8:1-4) [*jv* p. 314 par. 1]
2. 'Gog of Magog' is a symbolic reference to the governments of this world. (Ezek. 38:2) [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*91 8/15 p. 27 par. 2.]
3. Just as Oholah was the older sister of Oholibah, as depicted in Ezekiel chapter 23, so Roman Catholicism is the older sister of Protestantism, and both organizations have defiled themselves by committing spiritual adultery with the commercial and political powers of the world. [Weekly Bible Reading; see *w*89 4/1 30.]
4. Jehovah's Witnesses have increased in number to the point that they outnumber the population of scores of individual nations. [*jv* p. 278 par. 3]
5. Cornelius was the first Gentile to become a Christian. [*it*-1 p. 513 pars. 3, 4]
6. James 4:17 and Ezekiel 33:7-9 harmonize, showing that it is knowledge of what God requires of us that makes us accountable to him. [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*93 4/1 p. 7 par. 1.]
7. Daniel proved himself to be a true prophet by explaining the meaning of the dream image after King Nebuchadnezzar described it to him. [Weekly Bible reading; see Daniel 2:7-9, 26.]
8. The water that flows from the visionary temple described at Ezekiel 47:1 represents the cleansing power of baptism. [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*88 9/15 p. 27 par. 20.]
9. The example of Balaam stands as a warning to all who are headstrong and who persist in ignoring God's will as they pursue selfish gain. (Jude 11) [*it*-1 p. 244 par. 4]
10. The faithful secretary of the prophet Jeremiah who was promised preservation through the siege and destruction of Jerusalem was Ebed-melech. [*it*-1 p. 259 par. 5]

Answer the following questions:

11. In what ways did Charles Taze Russell demonstrate that he took to heart Jesus' words about seeking first the Kingdom? (Matt. 6:33) [*jv* p. 284 par. 1]
12. Of what do the conventions of Jehovah's Witnesses give undeniable evidence? [*jv* p. 254 pars. 2, 3]
13. In what way must Jehovah's anointed Witnesses and their associates be like Ezekiel? (Ezek. 11:25) [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*88 9/15 p. 16 par. 3.]
14. Why were separate meetings for young ones in the congregation discontinued in 1938? [*jv* p. 246 par. 1]
15. In what ways did Queen Athaliah imitate her mother, Jezebel? [*it*-1 p. 209 par. 3]
16. What is the meaning of the divine name, Jehovah? [*kl* p. 25 par. 7]
17. When a true Christian falls into need, who has the primary responsibility to provide material assistance, and what is the Scriptural basis for your answer? [*jv* p. 305 par. 1]

18. Who substituted for Naomi in levirate marriage to Boaz? [*it*-1 p. 347 par. 8]

19. What prophet referred to the earth as a "circle," and where in the Scriptures is this written? [*kl* p. 17 par. 14]

20. What does seeking first the Kingdom really mean? [*jv* p. 295 par. 1]

Provide the word(s) or phrase needed to complete each of the following statements:

21. In fulfillment of Ezekiel 21:26, the "high" kingdom of ________ was 'brought low' by being destroyed in ________, and the "low" ________ kingdoms were "put on high," leaving them in control of the earth without interference by a typical ________ of God. [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*88 9/15 p. 19 par. 16.]

22. Part of the book of ________ is actually ________ written in advance, focusing on the power struggle of the great dynasties down through the centuries. [*si* p. 138 par. 1]

23. The expression "my servant David" at Ezekiel 34:23 was written long after the death of ________; it is a prophetic statement and refers to ________. [*si* p. 137 par. 31]

24. Between January 1946 and August 1948, Jehovah's people provided ________ and ________ for Witnesses living in at least 18 countries that were affected by ________. [*jv* p. 308 pars. 3, 4]

25. Milestones in spiritual growth were reached in 1931 when we adopted the name ________, in 1935 when the ________ was identified, in 1950 when the ________ was released, and in 1962 when we had our understanding corrected about ________. [*jv* p. 260 par. 3–p. 264 par. 2]

Select the correct answer in each of the following statements:

26. The experience of (Abigail; Dorcas; Dinah) illustrates the truthfulness of the principle at 1 Corinthians 15:33. [*it*-1 p. 627 par. 3]

27. Cyrus conquered the city of (Jerusalem; Babylon; Nineveh) by diverting the waters of the (Tigris; Jordan; Euphrates) River so that his troops could enter the city. [*it*-1 p. 567 par. 1]

28. His given name was Joseph, but because of his warmheartedness and generosity, he became known as (Andrew; Barnabas; Bartholomew), meaning "Son of (Sorrow; Joy; Comfort)." [*it*-1 p. 257 pars. 3, 4]

29. Belshazzar, the firstborn son of (Cyrus; Nabonidus; Nebuchadnezzar), is mentioned in the Bible account only by (Ezekiel; Daniel; Isaiah), and archaeological evidence agrees with the historicity of the account. [*it*-1 p. 282 par. 11]

30. The fall of Babylon was foretold by (Daniel and Hosea; Joel and Amos; Isaiah and Jeremiah). [*kl* p. 18 par. 17]

Match the following scriptures to the statements listed below:

2 Chron. 14:2-5; Ps. 78:40, 41; Isa. 55:10, 11; Dan. 1:8, 11-13; 1 Cor. 9:16

31. To emphasize the importance of the preaching work, a 1949 *Watchtower* declared: "Jehovah has made preaching the most important work any of us could do in this world." [*jv* p. 292 par. 4]

32. Young Christians should not hesitate to respectfully make known to authorities and fellow students that they will not violate their godly conscience. [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*92 11/1 p. 14 par. 17.]

33. God's original purpose for mankind and the earth will be accomplished. [*kl* p. 9 par. 10]

34. Faithful servants of Jehovah courageously oppose apostasy and work diligently to promote pure worship. [*it*-1 p. 183 pars. 11, 12]

35. God has feelings, and the choices we make matter to him. [*kl* p. 14 par. 8]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **August:** Any of the following 32-page brochures: *Does God Really Care About Us?*, *Enjoy Life on Earth Forever!*, *"Look! I Am Making All Things New,"* *Should You Believe in the Trinity?*, *The Government That Will Bring Paradise*, *What Is the Purpose of Life—How Can You Find It?*, and *When Someone You Love Dies*. Where appropriate, brochures such as *Our Problems—Who Will Help Us Solve Them?*, *Spirits of the Dead—Can They Help You or Harm You? Do They Really Exist?*, and *Will There Ever Be a World Without War?* may be offered. **September:** *Life—How Did It Get Here? By Evolution or by Creation?* Congregations having *You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth* or *Making Your Family Life Happy* in stock may offer these books. **October:** Individual copies of both *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* Where interest is found on return visits, subscriptions may be offered. **November:** *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life*. A special effort will be made to follow up on all placements, with a view to starting home Bible studies.

■ An adequate supply of forms for use during the 1997 service year is being sent to each congregation. Please use these forms with good discretion. They should be used only for their intended purpose.

■ Each congregation will receive three Literature Inventory forms (S(d)-18). The congregation secretary should meet with the literature servant early in August and set a date for taking inventory of the congregation's stock of literature at the end of the month. An actual count must be made of all literature in stock, and the totals are to be entered on the Literature Inventory form. The total number of magazines on hand can be obtained from the magazine servant. *Please mail the original to the Society no later than September 6.* Keep a carbon copy for your files. The third copy may be used as a work sheet. The inventory should be supervised by the secretary, and the completed form should be checked by the presiding overseer. The secretary and the presiding overseer will sign the form.

■ Congregations should begin requesting the *1997 Calendar of Jehovah's Witnesses* with their September literature request. The calendars will be available in Chinese, Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Spanish, Swedish, Turkish, and Ukrainian.

■ From August 28, 1996, to August 31, 1996, the Society will be taking an inventory of all literature on hand in Brooklyn. Because of this inventory, no congregation literature requests will be processed for shipment or for pickup during those days.

■ New Publications Available:

Does Fate Rule Our Lives? Or Does God Hold Us Responsible? (Tract No. 71) —Macedonian
In Search of a Father (for Buddhists) —Vietnamese
Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life —Hindi, Tamil, Tongan
Should You Believe in the Trinity? —Bulgarian
Sing Praises to Jehovah (Small size) —Turkish
The Government That Will Bring Paradise —Czech
Watch Tower Publications Index 1991-1994 —German, Italian, Japanese, Spanish, Swedish
Watch Tower Publications Index 1986-1990 —Serbian
Will Suffering Ever End? (Tract No. 75) —Chinese

■ New Compact Discs Available:

Watchtower Library—1995 Edition —English

■ New Videocassettes Available:

Jehovah's Witnesses—The Organization Behind the Name —Russian

New Special Assembly Day Program

[1] "Be Persons Taught by Jehovah" is the theme for the new special assembly day program starting in September. (John 6:45) Divine teaching from Jehovah truly helps us to live satisfying lives. It develops within us a keen appreciation for our spiritual heritage. Our efforts to help others hear the good news make us useful members of society. This special assembly day will highlight the blessings that are enjoyed by persons taught by Jehovah.

[2] The program will contrast the benefits of divine teaching with the dangers of worldly learning. We will see more clearly how Jehovah provides the highest form of education—education based on his Word, the Bible. Emphasis will be placed on three areas of worship in which we experience delight in being taught by God. Additionally, youths will be encouraged to imitate outstanding Bible examples such as David and Timothy and to build their lives around spiritual activities. Our faith will be strengthened as the loyalty of older ones is also highlighted. Newly dedicated ones who qualify will be able to get baptized. Well in advance of the assembly day, they should inform the presiding overseer of that desire.

[3] The main discourse of the special assembly day is entitled "Taught by Jehovah to Do His Will." It will stress reasons why all of us need to keep learning, to be stabilized in the faith, and to continue making advancement. We will be urged to imitate Jehovah by teaching others the truth that leads to everlasting life. Upbuilding experiences will be included to show how the publications of the Society have helped many to be taught by Jehovah. The positive accomplishments of Jehovah's global teaching program will be highlighted.

[4] Make definite plans to attend. Encourage all interested ones to be present. Look forward to being taught many good things by our Grand Instructor.—Isa. 30:20.

MAY SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**198**	**121.4**	**93.3**	**51.1**	**4.8**
Pios.	**70,807**	**79.2**	**47.9**	**25.2**	**2.3**
Aux. Pios.	**27,202**	**58.5**	**37.5**	**15.4**	**1.2**
Pubs.	**825,542**	**9.6**	**7.0**	**3.6**	**0.4**
TOTAL	**923,749**		Baptized: **2,556**		

Proclaim the Kingdom Good News With Brochures

[1] What a joy it is to know the truth and to be among those who are zealously proclaiming the good news! People who are outside God's organization desperately need to hear the Kingdom good news. The truth about the Kingdom is explained with simplicity in the brochures *Enjoy Life on Earth Forever!*, *"Look! I Am Making All Things New,"* and *The Government That Will Bring Paradise*. They vividly portray life on earth under God's Kingdom, and they direct the reader to the Kingdom realities that are explained in God's Word. Of course, placing a brochure with an interested person is only the start of our work. (1 Cor. 9:23) Let us promptly follow up all placements, with the objective of offering a study in the book *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life*. How can we accomplish this during August?

[2] ***The brochure "Enjoy Life on Earth Forever!" may be offered with a very brief presentation. As you display its cover, you might say:***

■ "I would like to show you something that contains a beautiful message." Open the *Life on Earth* brochure, and read the first paragraph of the introduction. Then continue: "It also answers this question [turn to the heading above picture number 8]: 'Why does man die?' You will find it interesting to study the pictures and read the scriptures that are in this brochure. If you want to do that, you may keep this copy." If the brochure is accepted, then add: "This is a worldwide volunteer work that is supported by small donations. If you care to make a donation, I will be pleased to accept it."

[3] ***What will you say when making a return visit on a placement of the "Life on Earth" brochure? You could try this approach:***

■ Show picture number 49 in the *Life on Earth* brochure and ask, "Isn't this a beautiful picture? [Allow for response.] It is in the brochure that I left with you last visit. I would like to ask you the question on the next page." Turn to picture number 50 and read the question: "'Do you want to live forever in that beautiful paradise?' [Allow for response.] If that is your wish, notice what it says you should do: 'Then learn more about what God says.' [Read John 17:3.] I would be happy to study the Bible with you free of charge. Would you like that?" Make a definite appointment to return.

[4] ***When offering the brochure "Look! I Am Making All Things New," you might start by displaying the entire cover picture and asking:***

■ "What do you think it would take to make the whole earth look like this?" Allow for response. Describe some of the features of the picture, which are related on page 3. Then say: "Most people feel it is impossible to make a world like this. But it is not impossible for God to accomplish. [Share points in paragraph 43; then read Isaiah 9:6, 7.] God has promised to bring about a new world in which people from all nations will enjoy a wonderful paradise. I'd like you to read this brochure. It will show how you and your family can enjoy a marvelous future of God's making."

[5] ***On the return visit, you could use the "Look!" brochure to explain why there is a need to learn more about the Bible. Perhaps show the cover again and say:***

■ "When I first showed you this picture, we agreed that we would love to live in such a wonderful world. To make this possible, there is something all of us need to do." Open the *"Look!"* brochure to paragraph 52; read the paragraph and the scripture at John 17:3. Relate the information to the illustration in paragraph 53 about a proper Bible education, and then explain that Jehovah's Witnesses offer such instruction free of charge in the home. Offer to demonstrate our study method, using the *Knowledge* book.

[6] ***When offering the brochure "The Government That Will Bring Paradise," you might try saying this:***

■ "I've heard many people say they would like to live under a government that can really solve the big problems we face today. [Mention local problems such as unemployment, rising crime, or drug abuse.] These things make us feel very insecure about the future for ourselves and our loved ones. Do you think there will ever be a government that will solve these problems? [Allow for response.] Perhaps you have prayed the Lord's Prayer. If so, did you know that you are actually praying for a righteous government?" Turn to page 3 in the *Government* brochure, and read the first two paragraphs. Offer the brochure.

[7] ***If the brochure "The Government That Will Bring Paradise" was placed, you could begin the discussion on the return visit by saying:***

■ "Previously we discussed the need for a righteous government that can solve man's problems. The brochure that I left with you points to God's Kingdom as our only hope. Some people wonder what that government could do to improve our lot in life. The Bible shows that Christ has already proved he will succeed where human leaders have failed." Open the *Government* brochure to page 29, and read the last four paragraphs. Then say: "Is that not a wonderful future? Would you like to see it?" Allow for response. Read John 17:3. Encourage learning more through a home Bible study.

[8] If you are using other brochures, you can prepare your own presentations, using those suggested above as models. When appropriate, explain briefly that interested people may make small donations to the worldwide Kingdom-preaching work. Prepare well and seek Jehovah's blessing as you proclaim the Kingdom good news.

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OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

September 1996 For United States of America Vol. 39, No. 9

Walk by Faith

[1] Millions of people build their lives around their material possessions, foolishly trusting in the deceptive power of riches. (Matt. 13:22) They learn a hard lesson when their riches are lost or stolen or prove to be of little benefit. We are urged to pursue a wiser course, striving for spiritual treasures. (Matt. 6:19, 20) This involves "walking by faith."—2 Cor. 5:7.

[2] The word "faith" is translated from a Greek word that conveys the thought of confidence, trust, firm persuasion. To walk by faith means to face difficult conditions with confidence in God, trusting in his ability to guide our steps and in his willingness to care for our needs. Jesus set the perfect example; he kept focused on what was truly important. (Heb. 12:2) Similarly, we need to keep our hearts focused on unseen, spiritual things. (2 Cor. 4:18) We must be ever mindful of the uncertainty of our present life and acknowledge our total dependence on Jehovah.

[3] We must also be firmly persuaded that Jehovah is leading us by means of his visible organization under the direction of "the faithful and discreet slave." (Matt. 24:45-47) We demonstrate our faith when we are "obedient to those who are taking the lead" in the congregation. (Heb. 13:17) Humbly working in cooperation with the theocratic arrangement manifests our trust in Jehovah. (1 Pet. 5:6) We should be moved to give wholehearted support to the work that the organization has been given to do. This will draw us closer to our brothers in a strong bond of love and unity.—1 Cor. 1:10.

[4] **How to Strengthen Faith:** We must not allow our faith to become static. We need to put up a hard fight to increase it. Regularity in study, prayer, and meeting attendance will help us strengthen our faith so that, with Jehovah's help, it can withstand any test. (Eph. 6:16) Have you established a good routine for daily Bible reading and preparation for meetings? Do you often meditate on what you learn, and do you approach Jehovah in prayer? Is it your custom to attend all meetings and to participate in them as opportunity affords?—Heb. 10:23-25.

[5] Strong faith is proved by good works. (Jas. 2:26) One of the best ways to demonstrate our faith is by declaring our hope to others. Do you seek opportunities to share the good news? Can your circumstances be adjusted to enable you to do more in the ministry? Do you apply the suggestions we receive to improve the quality and effectiveness of our ministry? Do you set personal spiritual goals and exert yourself to attain them?

[6] Jesus warned about getting overly involved in everyday affairs of life and allowing materialistic or selfish interests to dim our spiritual outlook. (Luke 21:34-36) We must keep strict watch on how we walk in order to avoid shipwreck concerning our faith. (Eph. 5:15; 1 Tim. 1:19) All of us hope that ultimately we will be able to declare that we 'have fought the fine fight, have run the course to the finish, and have observed the faith.'—2 Tim. 4:7.

Be an Example in Speaking and in Conduct

[1] The apostle Paul exhorted Timothy to become an example in speaking and in conduct. (1 Tim. 4:12) We also should display exemplary speech and conduct, especially when engaging in the ministry, for doing so may determine whether or not we reach the heart of those we meet.

[2] We need to display all aspects of good manners, including courtesy, consideration, kindness, politeness, and tact. By reflecting these qualities, we show that we are aware of how our actions affect the feelings of others. Good manners in the ministry may be compared to seasonings, which are used to enhance the flavor of food. Without them, wholesome food can taste bland and unappetizing. The failure to display good manners in our dealings with others can have a similar effect.—Col. 4:6.

[3] **Be an Example in Speaking:** A friendly smile and a warm greeting are vital elements of our presentation of the good news. When we flavor our introduction with warmth and sincerity, we let the householder know that we are genuinely interested in him. When he speaks, listen carefully and show due respect for his opinion. When you speak, do so with tact and graciousness.—Compare Acts 6:8.

[4] Occasionally we meet an individual who may be unfriendly, even belligerent. How should we react? Peter urged us to speak in a way that displays "a mild temper and deep respect." (1 Pet. 3:15; Rom. 12:17, 18) Jesus said that if a householder rudely rejects the Kingdom message, we should simply 'shake the dust off our feet.' (Matt. 10:14) Our displaying exemplary manners under such circumstances may eventually soften the heart of the opposer.

[5] **Be an Example in Conduct:** Preaching the good news on busy streets and in public places requires that we be considerate, never loud or insistent, and that we do not interfere with the flow of passersby. When in the homes of interested persons, we ought to maintain proper decorum and conduct ourselves as gracious guests, showing appreciation for their hospitality. Any children who accompany us must show respect for the householder and his property and should be mannerly and attentive when we are conversing. If children are unruly, this will leave an unfavorable impression. —Prov. 29:15.

[6] Our personal appearance should make it obvious to others that we are ministers of God's Word. In our dress and grooming, we should be neither slovenly and unkempt nor flashy and extravagant. Our appearance should always be worthy of the good news. (Compare Philippians 1:27.) By giving careful attention to our appearance and equipment, we will not give others a cause for stumbling or for finding fault with our ministry. (2 Cor. 6:3, 4) Our exemplary speech and conduct add an appealing quality to the Kingdom message, bringing honor to Jehovah.—1 Pet. 2:12.

SERVICE MEETINGS FOR SEPTEMBER

Week Starting September 2

Song 98

12 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Encourage everyone, and especially Congregation Book Study conductors, to review September 1992 *Our Kingdom Ministry* article "Studying *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived.*" Highlight main points of article.

15 min: "Walk by Faith." Questions and answers.

18 min: "Presenting the Good News With a Positive Attitude." Make opening remarks based on paragraph 1. Explain that as an alternative offer to the *Creation* book, the *Live Forever* book or the *Family Life* book may be used if the congregation has any on hand. Then cover only paragraphs 2-5 of the article. Demonstrate well-prepared presentations that show how to offer the *Creation* book, make a return visit, and start a study in the *Knowledge* book. Give a reminder about mentioning the donation arrangement.

Song 48 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting September 9

Song 18

12 min: Local announcements. Accounts report. Discuss "Preach the Kingdom."

18 min: Review Congregation's 1996 Service Year Report. Upbuilding, enthusiastic talk by service overseer. (See *Our Ministry* book, pages 100-2.) Point out wherein the congregation did well, and give commendation. Show how the activity of the regular and auxiliary pioneers has done much to help advance the work locally. Mention meeting attendance figures, stressing the importance of regular attendance. Outline practical goals the congregation can try to achieve in the coming year.

15 min: "Presenting the Good News With a Positive Attitude." Review paragraphs 6-8 only, and demonstrate store-to-store presentations for both the initial call and the return visit. (See additional suggestions in September 1989 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 4.) Encourage all to make their return visits promptly.

Song 123 and concluding prayer.

CONGREGATION BOOK STUDY

Schedule for congregation studies in the book *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life.*

September 2: **Chapter 19**

Schedule for congregation studies in the book *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived.*

September 9: **Introduction**
September 16: **Chapters 1-3**
September 23: **Chapters 4-6**
September 30: **Chapters 7-10**

JUNE SERVICE REPORT

	Number of:	Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**178**	**117.5**	**83.5**	**50.9**	**4.6**
Pios.	**68,962**	**72.9**	**41.3**	**23.3**	**2.2**
Aux. Pios.	**22,149**	**58.3**	**34.5**	**13.9**	**1.2**
Pubs.	**810,143**	**9.7**	**6.8**	**3.5**	**0.4**
TOTAL	**901,432**		Baptized: **7,328**		

Week Starting September 16

Song 10

15 min: Local announcements. Mention the fine results from using the video *Jehovah's Witnesses—The Organization Behind the Name* to direct interested ones to the organization. Briefly relate one or two experiences from October 1, 1992, *Watchtower,* pages 30-1.

15 min: "Be an Example in Speaking and in Conduct." Questions and answers.

15 min: Christian Conduct in School. Father talks to his son or daughter to point out serious pitfalls in school environment; he stresses need to watch association and to avoid questionable activities. He reviews box on page 24 in *Education* brochure and explains need to set good example as a Witness. Father mentions some temptations that arise involving using drugs, dating, attending social gatherings, or participating in sports; they discuss how to avoid problems. Father encourages youth not to delay in confiding in him when having difficulties—he wants to know and to help.

Song 32 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting September 23

Song 21

10 min: Local announcements. Offer suggestions on how to mention the donation arrangement when offering literature, including the following: "Our literature is offered without charge, but we do accept small donations to support our worldwide work." "Many have asked how we can distribute literature without charging for it; we are pleased that many people who appreciate its value offer small donations to our worldwide work." "Our work is supported by voluntary donations. Many people who enjoy reading our literature make a small donation to support this Bible-educational work." (See December 1993 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 7.) Explain why it is important to allow interested ones an opportunity to help support our vital work.

15 min: Local needs. Or a talk based on "Look Beyond the Things You See!" in the February 15, 1996, *Watchtower,* pages 27-9.

20 min: "Preach the Good News Everywhere." Questions and answers. Cover paragraphs 1-15 only. Read paragraphs 3 and 5. Include local experiences of those who have had success witnessing on the street or on public transportation.

Song 215 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting September 30

Song 171

12 min: Local announcements. Discuss Question Box.

20 min: "Preach the Good News Everywhere." Questions and answers. Cover paragraphs 16-35. Show how the suggestions can be applied locally. Demonstrate paragraphs 23-5. Read paragraphs 34-5.

13 min: Review Literature Offer for October. We will feature the *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. Subscriptions may be offered on return visits. Discuss various points, such as: (1) Purpose for which the magazines are published, as explained in the opening pages. (2) They are published in many languages, making Bible knowledge available worldwide. (3) *The Watchtower* is designed for personal, family, and group study. (4) People who are associated with many different religions read them. (5) We will personally deliver the latest issues to anyone who sincerely wants to read them. (6) They are especially designed for busy people. (7) *The Watchtower* has been published since 1879; *Awake!* since 1919. (8) We distribute them without charge. (See *The Watchtower,* page 2; *Awake!,* page 4.) Conclude by relating comments made by an appreciative reader.—See April 15, 1986, *Watchtower,* page 32.

Song 3 and concluding prayer.

Preach the Good News Everywhere

[1] The early Christians preached the good news everywhere. They were so zealous that within 30 years of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Kingdom message had been "preached in all creation that is under heaven."—Col. 1:23.

[2] Jehovah's zealous servants of today have the same objective—to reach everyone possible with the Kingdom good news. What can help us to accomplish this goal? More and more people are working full-time and are often not at home when we call. When they are not working, they may be traveling, shopping, or pursuing some form of recreation. How are deserving ones among them being reached with the Kingdom message?—Matt. 10:11.

[3] Some are being contacted at their place of employment. Even small towns have a business section where many people spend most of the day. In large cities, people working in industrial parks or high-rise office buildings and those living in high-security apartments are receiving a witness —many for the first time. On weekends, some who have been contacted while relaxing at parks, recreation sites, campgrounds, or in cottages or while waiting in parking lots or in shopping malls have been found to be favorably disposed to the good news.

[4] An increasing number of publishers are making a special effort to witness in public places, wherever people can be found. At first, these Witnesses felt hesitant and somewhat nervous because of being accustomed to preaching in more formal settings, as from house to house. How do they feel now?

[5] "It has revitalized my ministry!" exclaims one experienced brother. Another adds: "It keeps me focused." An older pioneer observes: "It has been invigorating mentally, physically, and spiritually, . . . and I'm still growing." A publisher notes that he is now reaching many people who have never spoken to Jehovah's Witnesses before. Young people are also getting into the spirit of this enjoyable work. A youth expresses himself this way: "It's fun because you get to talk to so many people." Another says: "I am placing more literature than ever before!" All of this is taking place in territory that is worked over and over again.

[6] **Traveling Overseers Are Taking the Lead:** Recognizing that "the scene of this world is changing," the Society recently suggested that traveling overseers adjust their field service schedule from week to week so that as many people as possible can be reached with the good news. (1 Cor. 7:31) For years, circuit overseers set aside weekday mornings to engage in the house-to-house work, while the afternoons were devoted to making return visits and conducting home Bible studies. In some areas, that schedule may still be practical. In others, little may be accomplished by working from house to house during certain weekday mornings. In such cases, the traveling overseer may decide that early in the day it would be good to engage in store-to-store work or street witnessing. Or he may arrange for small groups to witness in high-rise office buildings, shopping areas, parking lots, or other public places. By publishers making more effective use of the time available for field service, many more people will be contacted.

[7] Reports indicate that this adjustment has been very well received by traveling overseers and publishers alike. A number of bodies of elders have invited the circuit overseer to train a few publishers in features of the work that need attention locally. It has been helpful for these publishers to accompany the traveling overseer as he engages in one of these activities. They, in turn, have been able to train others. (2 Tim. 2:2) As a result, more people are now being reached with the good news.

[8] Of course, you do not have to wait for the circuit overseer to visit to try out some of these other ways of preaching. Here are various ideas that you may find practical in your territory:

[9] **Street Witnessing:** 'Where are all the people?' we sometimes wonder as we visit a deserted residential area on a weekday morning. Some may be found running errands or shopping. Have you tried to reach them through street witnessing? When it is properly done, this feature of the ministry can be very productive. Rather than stand in one place with the magazines, it is best to approach people and strike up a friendly conversation. It is not necessary to give a witness to every passerby. Speak to the ones who are not in a rush, such as window-shoppers, those in parked automobiles, or people waiting for public transportation. At first, you may simply extend a friendly greeting and wait for a response. If the person is willing to talk, ask for his opinion on a subject you feel may interest him.

[10] One traveling overseer invited six publishers to join him and his wife in street witnessing. With what results? "We had a wonderful morning!" he reports. "There were no not-at-homes. Eighty magazines and many tracts were placed. We had several stimulating conversations. One of the publishers, who was engaging in street work for the first time, exclaimed: 'I have been in the truth for years and didn't realize what I had been missing!' By the end of the week, the congregation's overstocked magazine supply was depleted."

[11] While serving the next congregation, the same traveling overseer learned that several publishers had shared in street witnessing early one morning but had only limited success. One sister had spoken to only two persons during the entire witnessing period, as everyone else she met was rushing off to work. The traveling overseer suggested that all of them return to the same street a little later in the morning. They did, and they stayed until noon. The sister who had had only two conversations earlier in the morning did much better when she returned. She placed 31 magazines and 15 brochures, obtained the names and addresses of seven individuals, and started two home Bible studies! Others in the group had similarly encouraging results.

[12] When you find someone who shows interest, try to obtain the person's name, address, and telephone number. Rather than ask for the information outright, you might say: "I've enjoyed this conversation. Is there any way we can continue it at another time?" Or ask: "Is there any way I can reach you at home?" Many contacted in this way agree to a return visit. Be sure to have an ample supply of handbills for use in inviting those who would like to attend our meetings.

[13] If you speak to an interested person who lives in territory assigned to another congregation, you should pass the information along so that the brothers there can follow up on the interest. Would street witnessing be an effective way to spread the good news in your area? If so, review the article "Finding Interested Ones by Means of Effective Street Witnessing" in the July 1994 issue of *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Then arrange to engage in street witnessing at an appropriate time of day that will enable you to reach as many people as possible.

[14] **Witnessing on Public Transportation:** One morning a number of pioneers decided to witness to people who were waiting for the bus near a local college. While they had some pleasant conversations, there was a problem. By the time the discussion got well under way, the bus would come, bringing the conversation to an abrupt halt. The pioneers solved the problem by boarding the bus and continuing to witness to the passengers as they traveled across town. At the end of the line, the pioneers would make the return bus trip, witnessing as they went. After several trips back and forth, they totaled up the results of their efforts: Over 200 magazines were placed and six Bible studies were started. Some passengers willingly gave their address and telephone number so that they could be visited at home. The next week, the pioneers returned to the bus stop and followed the same method as before. They placed 164 magazines and started one more Bible study. At one stop a passenger boarded the bus and took the only available seat—next to a pioneer. He looked at the brother and said with a smile: "I know, you have a *Watchtower* for me."

[15] Many publishers give an effective witness while traveling by bus, train, or airplane. How can you start a conversation with a passenger seated next to you? One 12-year-old publisher simply began reading a copy of *Awake!* on the bus, hoping to arouse the curiosity of a teenage girl seated next to him. It worked. The girl asked him what he was reading, and the youth answered that he was reading about the solution to problems young people have to face. He added that he had greatly benefited from the article and that it could help her too. She gladly accepted the magazines. Their conversation was overheard by two other youths who also asked for copies of the magazines. At this, the bus driver pulled over to the side of the road and asked why there was so much interest in these magazines. When he found out, he also accepted copies. Of course, none of this would have been possible if the young publisher had not had an ample supply of magazines to share with everyone who showed interest!

[16] **Witnessing in Parks and Parking Lots:** Witnessing in parks and parking lots is an excellent way to reach people. Have you tried witnessing in the parking area of a shopping center? Always take a few moments to observe your surroundings. Look for someone who is not in a hurry or who is waiting in a parked car and try to initiate a friendly conversation. If the conversation continues, bring in the Kingdom message. Try working separately but with another publisher in the vicinity. Avoid carrying a large, bulky bag or in other ways attracting attention to your work. Be discreet. It may be best to spend only a short time in one parking lot and then move to another. If some-

one does not wish to converse with you, politely go on your way and look for someone else to approach. Using these methods, one brother placed 90 magazines in one month while witnessing in parking lots.

17 Some people go to a park to relax; others go there to play a game or to spend time with their children. Without unduly interfering with their activities, watch for an opportunity to give a witness. One brother began a conversation with the grounds keeper of a park and found that he was concerned about drugs and the future of his children. A home Bible study was started and was regularly conducted in the park.

18 **Informal Witnessing in Shopping Malls:** While it is not always possible to preach formally from store to store in shopping malls because of local restrictions on such activities, some publishers create opportunities to witness there informally. They sit down on a bench and strike up a friendly conversation with others who stop to rest. When interest is shown, they discreetly offer a tract or a magazine and endeavor to make arrangements for a return visit. After spending a few minutes witnessing in one section of the mall, they proceed to another and engage someone else in conversation. Of course, care should be taken not to attract undue attention while witnessing informally in this way.

19 When greeting a person, begin the conversation on a friendly note. If your listener responds, ask a question, then listen attentively as he expresses himself. Take a personal interest in what he is saying. Show that you value his opinion. Where possible, agree with him.

20 One sister had a delightful talk with an elderly woman by mentioning how high the cost of living has become. The woman readily agreed, and a lively conversation resulted. The sister was able to obtain the name and address of the woman, and a return visit was made that same week.

21 **Working From Store to Store:** Some congregations have business districts as part of their assigned territory. The brother caring for the territory may prepare special map cards of these heavily concentrated business sections. Any residential territory map cards that overlap them should clearly indicate that the businesses are not to be worked as part of the territory. In other territories, business places can be worked along with the residences. The elders may invite qualified publishers to work the business territories on a regular basis so that store-to-store work is not neglected.

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22 If you are invited to share in this work and you have never done it before, a good way to 'muster up boldness' is to work a few smaller stores first; then, when you feel more confident, work the larger ones. (1 Thess. 2:2) When working from store to store, dress as you would if you were attending a meeting at the Kingdom Hall. If possible, enter the store when there are no customers waiting to be served. Ask to speak to the manager or to the person in charge. Be warm, and above all, be brief. There is no need to be apologetic. Many businesses are customer-oriented and have come to expect interruptions.

23 ***After greeting a storekeeper, you might say this:*** "Businesspeople have such full schedules that we rarely find them at home, so we are visiting you here at your place of business to leave you a very thought-provoking article to read." Then make a comment or two about a magazine being offered.

24 ***Or you might try this when approaching a manager:*** "We have noticed that businesspeople make it a point to be well-informed. The latest issue of *The Watchtower* (or *Awake!*) features an article that affects all of us personally." Explain what it is, and conclude by saying: "We are sure you will enjoy reading it."

25 ***If there are employees, and it seems appropriate, you might add:*** "Would you mind if I gave the same brief presentation to your employees?" If permission is granted, remember you have promised to be brief, and the manager will expect you to keep your word. If any employees wish to enter into a long discussion, it would be best to call on them at their home.

26 Recently, a few publishers in a small town joined the circuit overseer in store-to-store work. Some of the publishers were apprehensive at first, having never done the work before; but they soon relaxed and began to enjoy it. In less than an hour, they spoke to 37 people and placed 24 magazines and 4 brochures. One brother observed that normally they would not be able to contact as many people in one month of house-to-house work as they did while working from store to store in that short time.

27 **Creating Opportunities to Preach:** Jesus did not confine his witnessing to formal settings. He spread the good news on every appropriate occasion. (Matt. 9:9; Luke 19:1-10; John 4:6-15) Notice how some publishers are creating opportunities to preach.

28 Some make it a practice to witness to parents who are waiting for their children near the

entrance of a school. Since many parents arrive up to 20 minutes early, there is time to engage them in a stimulating conversation on a Scriptural topic.

29 Many pioneers are conscious of reaching people who may have a special interest in a particular subject that is dealt with in our magazines. For example, one sister got good responses calling on six schools in her congregation's territory with the series "Schools in Crisis," which appeared in the December 22, 1995, *Awake!* She also visited family-care services with magazines on family life and child abuse and was given a standing appointment to return with future issues dealing with similar topics. The response she received at the unemployment office to the March 8, 1996, *Awake!* on unemployment was described as "overwhelming."

30 A district overseer reports that he and his wife regularly witness informally while doing their grocery shopping. They shop at a time of day when the store is not overly crowded, and the customers are proceeding up and down the aisles at a leisurely pace. They report many fine conversations.

31 Many publishers report good results while witnessing to people in public laundries. They do not simply leave magazines when no one is there. Their goal is to reach people with the good news, so they endeavor to speak personally to those who are using the facility.

32 In some localities, selected publishers have authorization to witness at airports. At times, they have had the joy of witnessing to international travelers who live in countries where Jehovah's people are few in number. Where interest is found, they have offered a tract or the magazines.

33 If not permitted to witness personally to the tenants of high-security apartments in the congregation's territory, some have made a practice of witnessing tactfully to the security guards on duty or to the managers in the rental offices. The same method is used in private, gated communities. A circuit overseer and a few publishers visited seven apartment complexes in this way. In each case, they told the manager that although they are not permitted to call at the apartments in our usual way, they did not want him to miss the information in the latest journals. Managers at all seven complexes gladly accepted the magazines and asked for the next issues as well! The residents of such complexes are then contacted by telephone. You will find practical information on the subject of telephone witnessing in the insert "Telephone Witnessing—A Way to Reach Many" in the August 1993 *Our Kingdom Ministry.*

34 **Exert Yourself to Preach Everywhere:** Living up to our dedication includes feeling a sense of urgency about our assignment to preach the Kingdom message. In order to reach people at a time that is convenient for them, we need to set aside our personal preferences so that we "might by all means save some." All dedicated servants of Jehovah want to be able to say, as did the apostle Paul: "I do all things for the sake of the good news, that I may become a sharer of it with others." —1 Cor. 9:22, 23.

35 Paul wrote further: "Most gladly, therefore, will I rather boast as respects my weaknesses, that the power of the Christ may like a tent remain over me. . . . For when I am weak, then I am powerful." (2 Cor. 12:9, 10) In other words, none of us could accomplish this work in our own strength. We need to pray to Jehovah for his powerful holy spirit. If we pray to God for strength, we can be confident that he will answer our prayers. Then our love for people will move us to look for opportunities to preach the good news to them, wherever they may be found. During the coming week, why not try one of the suggestions featured in this insert?

NEW PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

■ New Publications Available:

Does Fate Rule Our Lives?—Or Does God Hold Us Responsible? (Tract No. 71) —Serbian

Enjoy Life on Earth Forever! —Montagnais, Sidama

Good News for All Nations —Polish

How to Find the Road to Paradise (for Muslims) —Italian

Jehovah's Witnesses in the Twentieth Century —Urdu

Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life —Bengali, Macedonian

The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived —Solomon Islands Pidgin

The Greatest Name (for Muslims) (Tract No. 72) —Serbian, Turkish

United in Worship of the Only True God —Persian

Watch Tower Publications Index 1991-1994 —Spanish

Will Suffering Ever End? (Tract No. 75) —Japanese, Sinhalese

■ New Braille Publications Available:

What Does God Require of Us?—Grade-one English, Grade-two English, Grade-one Spanish.

The Secret of Family Happiness (two volumes) —Grade-two English

The Secret of Family Happiness (three volumes) —Grade-one Spanish

Please mark requests for Braille publications, ATTENTION: BRAILLE DESK. Include name and address of the person who will use the Braille material.

■ New Videocassettes Available:

The Bible—Accurate History, Reliable Prophecy —Thai

United by Divine Teaching —Chinese (Mandarin), Czech, Finnish, Greek

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Literature offer for **September:** *Life—How Did It Get Here? By Evolution or by Creation?* Congregations having *You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth* or *Making Your Family Life Happy* in stock may offer these books. **October:** Individual copies of both *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* Where interest is found on return visits, subscriptions may be offered. **November:** *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life.* A special effort will be made to follow up on all placements, with a view to starting home Bible studies. **December:** *New World Translation* with the book *The Bible—God's Word or Man's?*

- The presiding overseer or someone designated by him should audit the congregation's accounts on September 1 or as soon as possible thereafter. Make an announcement to the congregation when this has been done.

- Publishers planning to serve as auxiliary pioneers in October should turn in an application early. This will allow the elders to make necessary arrangements for magazines, literature, and territory.

- The elders are reminded to follow through on instructions given on pages 21-3 of the April 15, 1991, *Watchtower,* regarding any disfellowshipped or disassociated persons who may be inclined toward becoming reinstated.

- It is important that groups of 30 or more persons planning to visit the Society's facilities first correspond by mail with the Central Tour Desk at 100 Watchtower Drive, Patterson, NY 12563-9204. Please note that this is a change of address for the Central Tour Desk. The Central Tour Desk will care for groups that will be visiting Brooklyn Bethel, Watchtower Farms at Wallkill, the Watchtower Educational Center at Patterson, or the Jersey City Assembly Hall. Please provide information on the number coming and the dates and times for visiting each location. The Society will provide a description of the tours that are available as well as a map giving directions to each location. LODGING INFORMATION HAS BEEN SENT TO THE CONGREGATION ELDERS AND MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE CONGREGATION SECRETARY.

- The quarterly edition of *Awake!* in Hiri Motu is being suspended. The July-September issue will be the last one.

- Beginning with the October-December 1996 issue, *Awake!* will be printed in Georgian as a quarterly edition.

- Beginning in January 1997, the Marathi edition of *Awake!* will be a monthly publication.

- Semimonthly publication of *The Watchtower* in the Georgian language will begin in January 1997.

QUESTION BOX

- What should be kept in mind regarding reading the paragraphs at the meetings?

Much of the time allotted for the *Watchtower* Study and the Congregation Book Study is used for the reading of the paragraphs. This means that the brother assigned as reader carries a heavy responsibility as a teacher. He must read in a manner that will 'put meaning' into the material so that listeners not only will understand it but also will be motivated to action. (Neh. 8:8) Hence, the reader needs to prepare well for his assignment. (1 Tim. 4:13; see study 6 of the *School Guidebook.*) Here are some essentials for meaningful public reading.

Use Proper Sense Stress: Determine in advance which words or phrases need to be emphasized in order to convey the correct understanding.

Pronounce Words Correctly: Proper pronunciation and clear enunciation are necessary if the audience is to comprehend expressions that appear in the publication. Look up unfamiliar or seldom-used words in a dictionary, or listen to the Society's cassette recordings.

Speak With Volume and Enthusiasm: Speaking up enthusiastically creates interest, stirs the emotions, and motivates the listener.

Be Warm and Conversational: Naturalness comes with fluency. With preparation and practice, the reader can be relaxed, and the result will be appealing instead of monotonous and tedious.—Hab. 2:2.

Read the Material as Printed: Footnotes as well as information in parentheses or brackets are ordinarily read aloud if they clarify the printed text. The only exceptions are references that simply identify source material. A footnote should be read where it is referred to in the paragraph, prefacing it by stating: "The footnote reads . . ." After reading it, simply continue with the rest of the paragraph.

When public reading is done well, it is one of the vital ways that we can 'teach others to observe all the things commanded' by our Great Teacher.—Matt. 28:20.

Preach the Kingdom

[1] At Hebrews 10:23, we are urged to "hold fast the public declaration of our hope." And our hope is centered on God's Kingdom. Jesus specifically commanded that the good news of the Kingdom must be preached in all the nations. (Mark 13:10) We need to keep this in mind while engaging in our ministry.

[2] When we contact people, we try to start a conversation about something that interests or concerns them. Usually we mention things that they are well aware of, such as crime in the neighborhood, the problems of young people, anxieties about making a living, or a crisis in world affairs. Since the minds of most people are focused on these "anxieties of life," when we show that we are concerned and understanding, people will often express what is on their mind. (Luke 21:34) This may open the way for us to share our hope.

[3] If we are not careful, however, the conversation can dwell on negative things to the point that we fail to accomplish the purpose of our visit—to preach the Kingdom message. Although we call attention to the bad conditions that bring so much distress, our goal is to direct attention to the Kingdom, which will ultimately resolve all the problems of mankind. We have a truly wonderful hope that people desperately need to hear about. So while we may initially discuss some aspect of these "critical times hard to deal with," we should quickly focus on our primary message, the "everlasting good news." In this way we will fully accomplish our ministry. —2 Tim. 3:1; 4:5; Rev. 14:6.

Presenting the Good News With a Positive Attitude

[1] All of us like to find joy and accomplishment in what we do, especially in the disciple-making work. What brings us such satisfaction? It starts with our maintaining a positive mental attitude while we keep busy in the worthwhile work of helping others. (Prov. 11:25) Our manner in presenting the good news should show that we truly believe what we are saying. If we speak from our heart, then our sincerity and personal conviction will shine through. (Luke 6:45) By rehearsing our presentation, we will feel more confident when speaking to the people in the territory. This will be of particular value during September when we offer the book *Life—How Did It Get Here? By Evolution or by Creation?* You may find the following suggestions helpful in presenting the good news with a positive attitude.

[2] ***When offering the "Creation" book, you could say this on the initial call:***

■ "In talking to our neighbors, we have found that some put their confidence in God. Others find it difficult to believe in him. How do you feel? [Allow for response.] Notice how the Bible reasons on this matter. [Read Romans 1:20.] We can see proof of God's 'eternal power and Godship' by observing the things he created." Read the last paragraph on page 48 of the *Creation* book, and draw attention to the complexity of the living cell. Or use paragraph 18 on page 147 to show how a tree's amazing circulatory system highlights the work of a Creator. Offer to let the person have the book if he will agree to read it. If he does, place it with him, and explain that we gladly accept donations for our worldwide work.

[3] ***When returning to visit those with whom you discussed God's Creatorship, you might wish to say this:***

■ "On my previous visit, we talked about the evidence for God's existence—his marvelous creation. Do you find it hard to believe that the One who created the universe would also be interested in our future? [Allow for response.] It is of interest to note that the future has already been determined by the Creator." Read Isaiah 46:9, 10. Depending on the individual's interest, use the pictures and captions in chapter 19 of the *Creation* book to highlight the ideal conditions promised by God. Read paragraph 1 of chapter 20, and offer a Bible study. If accepted, start the study in the *Knowledge* book.

[4] ***You might try this presentation when offering the "Creation" book:***

■ "In speaking with people in the neighborhood, I have observed that most long for a safe community and a peaceful world. What is your opinion as to why man has failed to achieve such conditions? [Allow for response.] Some leaders may be sincere and do some good, but notice what the Bible wisely counsels." Read Psalm 146:3, 4; then ask: "Is there anyone who can satisfy man's needs?" Read verses 5 and 6. Show the picture on page 251 of the *Creation* book, and draw attention to the benefits of God's rule. Offer the book, and mention our arrangement for donations.

[5] ***If God's rulership was discussed initially, you could try this suggestion on the return visit:***

■ "When I was here a few days ago, we discussed the failure of man to bring about real peace on earth. You may recall that we determined the reason the Bible gives for such failure. [Read Psalm 146:3 again.] Did you notice why God advises us not to pin our hopes on humans? [Allow for response.] Perhaps you agree that any hope for a permanent solution has to come from God. The reason we can have this confidence is explained at Psalm 146:10. [Read.] If we want to be a subject of God's Kingdom, what must we do?" Turn to page 250 of the *Creation* book, read paragraph 13, and highlight John 17:3. Offer to demonstrate how, through a study of the Bible, millions have gained the knowledge that leads to everlasting life. If permitted, introduce the *Knowledge* book and start the study.

[6] ***In working from store to store, you might use this brief approach with the "Creation" book:***

■ "Today we are rendering a special service to the businesspeople of the community. All of us are concerned with the escalation of crime and violence in our area. Do you feel that anyone has a real solution to the problem? [Allow for response.] God has a solution." Turn to page 196 of the *Creation* book; read and comment on Proverbs 2:21, 22 in paragraph 19. Show the title of chapter 16, and offer the book. Explain that while there is no charge for the publication, we do accept modest donations for our worldwide work.

[7] ***When making a return visit on a businessperson with whom you placed the "Creation" book, you might say this:***

■ "On my last visit, I mentioned that God is the only one who really has the lasting solution to crime and violence. According to his promise, we can trust that a peaceful earth will be realized. Notice the choice that is set before each one of us." Read paragraph 11 on page 250 of the *Creation* book, including Psalm 37:37, 38. Comment on the picture on page 251, and read the first sentence of paragraph 14. Offer a free Bible study, to be conducted either at their place of business or in their home.

[8] As "God's fellow workers," we have every reason to be positive when presenting the good news. (1 Cor. 3:9) Our maintaining this attitude will result in Jehovah's rich blessing.

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OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

October 1996 For United States of America Vol. 39, No. 10

How to Buy Out the Opportune Time

¹ Having plenty to do in Jehovah's service keeps us busy! (1 Cor. 15:58) We recognize the need to study personally and as a family, to read the Bible daily, to prepare for and attend congregation meetings, and to share regularly in the field ministry. Overseers have shepherding responsibilities, and they care for other congregation duties. Some have weighty family responsibilities or a variety of obligations to others. To get everything done properly, everyone needs balance and good personal organization.

² **Set Priorities:** Success in 'buying out the opportune time for ourselves' depends on our discernment and good judgment. (Eph. 5:15, 16) We must determine what "the more important things" are and put them at the top of our list of priorities. (Phil. 1:10) One couple described their theocratic household in this way: "We fill our lives with the truth . . . The truth is not part of our life, it *is* our life. Everything else revolves around it." Putting Jehovah's worship and service first in one's life is essential.

³ **Identify Time Wasters:** There are 168 hours in a week, and we need to make wise use of our available time. To have enough time for theocratic activities, we need to identify and minimize time wasters. One survey revealed that the average adult in the United States spends more than 30 hours a week watching TV! For others, much time is consumed reading worldly literature. Some may find that they devote an inordinate amount of time to social activities, hobbies, recreation, or some sort of computer activity. We may need to take a close look at our daily routine to see how we might better use our time. Wisdom requires that we set limits on how much time we allow for nonessential activities.

⁴ **Develop a Good Routine:** Whatever our personal circumstances, each of us can buy out time for spiritual pursuits. Some have found that getting a little earlier start each day helps them accomplish more. If we spend much time commuting to work or waiting for others, we might use some of that time for Bible reading, preparing for meetings, or listening to material provided by the Society on audiocassettes. Families benefit greatly by setting aside a regular, specific time to study together. If each family member is punctual when coming to the family study, it gives everyone some extra time.

⁵ With each passing day, we should become more keenly aware that "the time left is reduced." (1 Cor. 7:29) Our lives depend on how we use the precious time that remains. We will be blessed if we buy out the opportune time so that we can keep Kingdom interests in first place!—Matt. 6:33.

Publishing Good News of Something Better

¹ For 117 years *The Watchtower* has served as a defender of Bible truth. Currently, 18,950,000 copies of each issue are printed in 125 languages. *Awake!* too has long advocated God's Word, and it now has a circulation of 15,730,000 copies in 80 languages. —Compare Colossians 1:23.

² **Magazines Fill a Spiritual Need:** *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* have benefited millions of honesthearted people by helping to fill their spiritual need. Faith-building articles are published. For example, in *The Watchtower* of February 1, 1996, we studied material dealing with the need to trust in Jehovah and his Word. The March 1, 1996, issue of *The Watchtower* encouraged us to keep busy in Jehovah's service and to keep in expectation of him. How stimulating the detailed discussion of Zephaniah's prophecy was! Then there was the faith-strengthening discussion of Christian loyalty in *The Watchtower* of March 15, 1996. The May 15, 1996, issue emphasized the value of reading and studying God's Word on a regular basis. These articles have served to deepen our understanding of God's Word, and our appreciation for his Kingdom has been enhanced.

³ In addition, these magazines contain timely, practical articles on godly conduct, Christian morals, and other subjects of vital importance. They come to grips with the real issues affecting our lives. As a result, we enjoy a superior quality of life now while we await the fulfillment of God's promises of something even better in the future.—Isa. 48:17; 1 Tim. 6:19.

⁴ A brief review of what is stated on page 4 of each issue of *Awake!* gives us good reason for recommending this magazine as excellent reading material for people everywhere, young and old alike. There it states: "*Awake!* is for the enlightenment of the entire family. It shows how to cope with today's problems. It reports the news, tells about people in many lands, examines religion and science. But it does more. It probes beneath the surface and points to the real meaning behind current events, yet it always stays politically neutral and does not exalt one race above another. Most important, this magazine builds confidence in the Creator's promise of a peaceful and secure new world that is about to replace the present wicked, lawless system of things."

⁵ **Share the Magazines With Others:** Be liberal in distributing *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* (Compare 1 Timothy 6:18.) Have copies available so that you can offer them to anyone you happen to meet. (Eccl. 11:6) All of us, including young and new publishers, can have a full share in distributing magazines this month by using brief presentations based on the timely articles featured in the current issues. Become well acquainted with their contents, and offer them with sincerity and conviction.

⁶ *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* contain information that every person needs. Distributing them is one of the best ways we can help others to learn the good news that something better is soon to come!

SERVICE MEETINGS FOR OCTOBER

Week Starting October 7

Song 47

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Comment on July field service report for the country and the local congregation.

15 min: Question Box. Service overseer or other qualified elder discusses information with audience.

20 min: "Prepare Your Own Magazine Presentation." (Paragraphs 1-7) Ask questions on paragraphs 1-4, and then have two or three brief demonstrations to show how current magazines may be offered, using the suggestions in paragraphs 5-7. Include comments from March 1, 1987, *Watchtower,* page 17, paragraphs 8-9.

Song 222 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting October 14

Song 39

10 min: Local announcements. Accounts report.

15 min: "Publishing Good News of Something Better." Questions and answers. Point out some of the history-making articles that have appeared in *The Watchtower.*—See *The Watchtower* of March 1, 1987, page 13.

20 min: "Prepare Your Own Magazine Presentation." (Paragraphs 8-11) Questions and answers. Include comments on the four suggestions in the January 1, 1994, *Watchtower,* pages 24-5, paragraphs 18-21. Using the October issues of the magazines, show how to prepare a presentation: (1) Select an article that will likely attract interest in your territory, (2) look for an interesting point to feature, (3) formulate a question that could be used to draw attention to that point, (4) pick out a scripture to read if given the opportunity, and (5) prepare your opening words and what you will say about the magazine so that you will encourage the householder to accept it. Have two or three capable publishers each demonstrate a presentation. Include a youth who will demonstrate a simple magazine offer. They should mention that donations are accepted for our worldwide work.

Song 82 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting October 21

Song 169

15 min: Local announcements. Explain how to start a magazine route: (1) Record each placement and the article that was featured, (2) arrange to return with the next issues, and (3) set aside a specific time in your weekly service schedule to make these calls. Offer six-month subscriptions where you find interest, and remember to report each magazine route call as a return visit.

15 min: "Work Your Territory Thoroughly." Discuss article and what the local arrangements are for working businesses. Invite audience to relate encouraging experiences they enjoyed when they worked the stores included in their territory.

15 min: Local needs. Or a talk by an elder on the article "Maintain Your Confidence Firm to the End," from the May 1, 1996, *Watchtower,* pages 21-4.

Song 12 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting October 28

Song 27

10 min: Local announcements. With several worldly holidays coming up in November and December, perhaps allowing time off from secular work and school, encourage all to think about the possibility of enrolling as auxiliary pioneers. Urge all to turn in October field service reports this weekend.

20 min: "How to Buy Out the Opportune Time." Questions and answers. Include comments from December 1, 1989, *Watchtower,* pages 16-17, paragraphs 7-11.

15 min: Review Literature Offer for November. The *Knowledge* book will be offered, and a special effort will be made to follow up on all placements, with a view to starting home Bible studies. Two or three capable publishers discuss the value of the book and how it can be used. The information it contains touches the lives of people in every walk of life. It covers the fundamental Bible subjects and principles new ones need to understand before they get baptized. If we keep the study moving at a good pace, the student can make rapid progress. Discuss and demonstrate how to start a study by using the direct approach: Review picture and caption on pages 4-5; explain our study method; briefly discuss the first five paragraphs in chapter 1; make an appointment to return later and continue the discussion, answering the question, Is everlasting life only a dream? Emphasize the joy that comes with the privilege of conducting a home Bible study.

Song 162 and concluding prayer.

Work Your Territory Thoroughly

[1] In residential areas we occasionally encounter a small business place, such as a grocery store, restaurant, or retail shop. If these establishments are to be covered along with the rest of this territory, you should call on them the same as the residences.

[2] You can use a simple, brief presentation, perhaps saying: "I have something I would like to show you." If the proprietor seems to be busy at the moment, you might just offer a tract and say: "I will stop by again when you are not so busy. I would like to know what you think of this."

[3] There is no need to feel apprehensive about doing this work. One publisher reported: "I expected that the response would be negative. However, to my surprise, the reaction to the Kingdom message was just the opposite. They were genuinely polite and friendly and almost always accepted the magazines."

[4] A woman working at a real-estate company invited the Witnesses into her office. She accepted the magazines and expressed interest in having a Bible study. She was shown the *Knowledge* book, and a study was started on the spot, right in her office!

[5] The assignment to work your territory thoroughly includes calling on individuals who operate neighborhood businesses. (Acts 10:42) Plan to call at these doors just the same as at private homes. Not only will this give better coverage to your territory but you may be rewarded with some delightful experiences!

THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL SCHEDULE FOR 1997

INSTRUCTIONS

During 1997 the following will be the arrangements when conducting the Theocratic Ministry School.

TEXTBOOKS: The *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures* [*bi12*], *Jehovah's Witnesses—Proclaimers of God's Kingdom* [*jv*], *"All Scripture Is Inspired of God and Beneficial"* (1990 Edition) [*si*], *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life* [*kl*], and *Insight on the Scriptures* Vol. 1 [*it*-1] will be the basis for assignments.

The school should begin ON TIME with song, prayer, and remarks of welcome and then proceed as follows:

ASSIGNMENT NO. 1: 15 minutes. This should be handled by an elder or a ministerial servant, and it will be based on *Jehovah's Witnesses—Proclaimers of God's Kingdom* or *"All Scripture Is Inspired of God and Beneficial."* When based on the *Proclaimers* book, this assignment should be delivered as a 15-minute instruction talk with no oral review; when based on the *"All Scripture"* book, it should be delivered as a 10- to 12-minute instruction talk with a 3- to 5-minute oral review following, using the printed questions in the publication. The objective should be not just to cover the material but to focus attention on the *practical value* of the information being discussed, highlighting what will be most helpful to the congregation. The theme shown should be used. Illustrations, photographs, and charts found in the *Proclaimers* book may be commented on by the speaker and used as teaching aids.

The brothers assigned this talk should be careful to *keep within the time limit*. Private counsel may be given if necessary or if requested by the speaker.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM BIBLE READING: 6 minutes. This should be handled by an elder or a ministerial servant who will effectively apply the material to local needs. This should not be just a summary of the assigned reading. A 30- to 60-second overall review of the assigned chapters may be included. The principal objective, however, is to help the audience to appreciate *why* and *how* the information is of value to us. The students will then be dismissed to their various classrooms by the school overseer.

ASSIGNMENT NO. 2: 5 minutes. This is a Bible reading of the assigned material to be given by a brother. This will apply in the main school as well as in the auxiliary groups. The reading assignments are usually short enough to permit the student to present brief explanatory information in the opening and concluding remarks. Historical background, prophetic or doctrinal significance, and application of principles may be included. *All* the assigned verses should be read without a break. Of course, where the verses to be read are not consecutive, the student may cite the verse where the reading continues.

ASSIGNMENT NO. 3: 5 minutes. This will be assigned to a sister. The subject for this presentation will be based on *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life.* The setting may be an informal witness, a return visit, or a home Bible study, and the participants may be either seated or standing. The school overseer will be particularly interested in the way the student helps the householder to reason on and understand the material and in how the scriptures are applied. The student assigned this part should know how to read. One assistant will be scheduled by the school overseer, but an additional assistant may be used. The student may determine whether or not to have the householder read certain paragraphs in the book. Not the setting but the effective use of the material should be given prime consideration.

ASSIGNMENT NO. 4: 5 minutes. This will be assigned to a brother or a sister. It will be based on a Bible character. For each assignment the name of a Bible character and a theme are set forth in the schedule. Information about the Bible character can be found in *Insight on the Scriptures,* Volume 1, under his name. The student should study Scriptural references in the material in order to get a clear picture of the Bible character—the events of his life, as well as his personality, traits, and attitude. Thereafter, the student should develop the assigned theme of the talk and select appropriate scriptures to be used. Additional scriptures that highlight Bible principles that tie in with the theme may be included. The purpose of the talk is to show what can be learned from the example of the Bible character under consideration. Acts of faithfulness, courage, humility, and unselfishness furnish good examples to be followed; unfaithful acts, as well as undesirable traits, stand as strong warnings to turn Christians away from an improper course. When assigned to a brother, this talk should be given with the Kingdom Hall audience in mind. When a sister is given this part, it should be presented as outlined for Assignment No. 3.

COUNSEL AND REMARKS: After each student presentation, the school overseer will give specific counsel, not necessarily following the program of progressive counsel outlined on the Speech Counsel slip. Rather, he should concentrate on those areas where the student needs to improve. If the student merits solely a "G" and there is no other speech quality marked "I" or "W," then the counselor should circle the box, where the "G," "I," or "W" would normally appear, of the speech quality that the student should work on next. He will advise the student of this that evening as well as show this speech quality on the student's next Theocratic Ministry School Assignment slip (S-89). Those on the program should sit toward the front of the hall. This will save time and enable the school overseer to give his counsel directly to each student. As time allows after the giving of necessary oral counsel, comments may be given by the counselor on informative and practical points not covered by the students. The school overseer should use *no more than a total of two minutes* for counsel and any other brief remarks after each student presentation. If the brother who handles the Bible highlights assignment needs counsel, this may be given privately.

PREPARING ASSIGNMENTS: Before preparing an assigned part, the student should carefully read the *School Guidebook* material dealing with the speech quality to be worked on. Students given Assignment No. 2 may choose a theme appropriate to the portion of the Bible that is to be read. Other assignments are to be developed in line with the theme shown on the printed schedule.

TIMING: No one should go overtime, nor should the counsel and remarks of the counselor. Assignments No. 2 through 4 should tactfully be stopped when the time is up. The one designated to give the stop signal should do so promptly. When brothers handling Assignment No. 1 and Bible highlights go overtime, they should be given private counsel. Total program: 45 minutes, excluding song and prayer.

WRITTEN REVIEW: Periodically a written review will be given. In preparation, review the assigned material and complete the scheduled Bible reading. Only the Bible may be used during this 25-minute review. The balance of the time will be devoted to a discussion of the questions and answers. Each student will check his own paper. The school overseer will consider with the audience the answers to the review questions and concentrate on the more difficult ones, helping all to understand the answers clearly. If local circumstances make it necessary, the written review may be given a week later than what is shown on the schedule.

S-38a 10/96

SCHEDULE

Jan. 6 Bible reading: Zechariah 1 to 5
Song No. 113
No. 1: Introduction to Zechariah (*si* pp. 168-9 pars. 1-7)
No. 2: Zechariah 2:1-13
No. 3: Man Was Not Made to Die (*kl* p. 53 pars. 1-3)
No. 4: Eve—Theme: Do Not Ignore Theocratic Headship

Jan. 13 Bible reading: Zechariah 6 to 9
Song No. 215
No. 1: How the Kingdom Work Is Financed (*jv* p. 340 par. 1-p. 343 par. 3)
No. 2: Zechariah 7:1-14
No. 3: A Sinister Plot (*kl* pp. 55-6 pars. 4-7)
No. 4: Ezekiel—Theme: How to Keep Free From Bloodguilt

Jan. 20 Bible reading: Zechariah 10 to 14
Song No. 91
No. 1: Zechariah—Why Beneficial (*si* pp. 171-2 pars. 23-7)
No. 2: Zechariah 12:1-14
No. 3: How Satan Carried Out His Plot (*kl* pp. 56-8 pars. 8-12)
No. 4: Ezra (an Aaronic priest)—Theme: Be Zealous for Pure Worship

Jan. 27 Bible reading: Malachi 1 to 4
Song No. 118
No. 1: Introduction to Malachi and Why Beneficial (*si* pp. 172-5 pars. 1-6, 13-17)
No. 2: Malachi 1:6-14
No. 3: How Sin and Death Spread (*kl* pp. 58-9 pars. 13-15)
No. 4: Felix—Theme: Whether Corrupt or Just, the Superior Authorities Are to Be Respected

Feb. 3 Bible reading: Matthew 1 to 3
Song No. 191
No. 1: Introduction to Matthew (*si* pp. 175-7 pars. 1-10)
No. 2: Matthew 2:1-15
No. 3: Beware of Satan's Tactics (*kl* pp. 59-60 pars. 16-18)
No. 4: Festus—Theme: The Effects of a Bold Witness

Feb. 10 Bible reading: Matthew 4 and 5
Song No. 36
No. 1: Financing Meeting Places and Expansion of Bethel Facilities (*jv* p. 343 par. 4-p. 347 par. 1; may refer to examples on pp. 352-401)
No. 2: Matthew 4:1-17
No. 3: Have Faith and Be Prepared for Opposition (*kl* pp. 60-1 pars. 19-21)
No. 4: Gabriel—Theme: Faithfully Deliver God's Messages

Feb. 17 Bible reading: Matthew 6 and 7
Song No. 52
No. 1: The Kingdom Work Is Not Commercial (*jv* p. 347 par. 2-p. 351 par. 6)
No. 2: Matthew 7:1-14
No. 3: God's Means of Saving Mankind (*kl* pp. 62-3 pars. 1-5)
No. 4: Gedaliah (son of Ahikam)—Theme: When a Warning Is Given, Take Precautions

Feb. 24 Bible reading: Matthew 8 and 9
Song No. 211
No. 1: Witnesses to the Most Distant Part of the Earth (*jv* p. 404 par. 1-p. 408 par. 3)
No. 2: Matthew 8:1-17
No. 3: Why the Messiah Would Die (*kl* pp. 63-5 pars. 6-11)
No. 4: Gehazi—Theme: Keep Your Heart Free of Greed and Deceit

March 3 Bible reading: Matthew 10 and 11
Song No. 224
No. 1: Appreciation Moved Them to Speak (*jv* p. 409 par. 1-p. 414 par. 3)
No. 2: Matthew 11:1-15
No. 3: How the Ransom Was Paid (*kl* pp. 65-8 pars. 12-16)
No. 4: Gideon—Theme: God Approves the Faithful and Modest Ones

Mar. 10 Bible reading: Matthew 12 and 13
Song No. 133
No. 1: The Light of Truth Shines Worldwide (*jv* p. 414 par. 4-p. 422 par. 3; may include summary on p. 422)
No. 2: Matthew 12:22-37
No. 3: Christ's Ransom and You (*kl* pp. 68-9 pars. 17-20)
No. 4: Goliath—Theme: Trust Jehovah, Not Your Own Strength

Mar. 17 Bible reading: Matthew 14 and 15
Song No. 145
No. 1: The Dark Years of World War I and Then Renewed Life (*jv* p. 423 par. 1-p. 427 par. 2)
No. 2: Matthew 14:1-22
No. 3: Is God Responsible for Human Suffering? (*kl* pp. 70-1 pars. 1-5)
No. 4: Hagar—Theme: A Slave Girl and Her Prophetic Role

Mar. 24 Bible reading: Matthew 16 and 17
Song No. 151
No. 1: Zealous Ministers Share Precious Bible Truths (*jv* p. 427 par. 3-p. 433 par. 1)
No. 2: Matthew 17:14-27
No. 3: A Perfect Beginning and a Malicious Challenge (*kl* pp. 72-3 pars. 6-10)
No. 4: Haggai—Theme: Persevere in Doing God's Will

Mar. 31 Bible reading: Matthew 18 and 19
Song No. 117
No. 1: Spiritual Light Shines in African, Spanish, and Portuguese Fields (*jv* p. 433 par. 2-p. 439 par. 1)
No. 2: Matthew 19:16-30
No. 3: The Real Issues and Jehovah's Way of Settling Them (*kl* pp. 74-6 pars. 11-15)
No. 4: Ham—Theme: Disrespect Can Bring Dire Consequences

Apr. 7 Bible reading: Matthew 20 and 21
Song No. 6
No. 1: Reaching People in Remote Areas and Obeying God in the Face of Opposition (*jv* p. 439 par. 2-p. 443 par. 2; may include summary on p. 443)
No. 2: Matthew 20:1-16
No. 3: What God's Permission of Wickedness Has Proved (*kl* pp. 76-7 pars. 16-19)
No. 4: Haman—Theme: Pride and Hatred Are Characteristics of the Devil's Children

Apr. 14 Bible reading: Matthew 22 and 23
Song No. 172
No. 1: Intensely Occupied With Preaching the Good News (*jv* p. 444 par. 1-p. 448 par. 2)
No. 2: Matthew 23:1-15
No. 3: On Whose Side Do You Stand? (*kl* pp. 78-9 pars. 20-3)
No. 4: Hannah—Theme: Unselfish Devotion Brings Blessings

Apr. 21 Bible reading: Matthew 24 and 25
Song No. 193
No. 1: Preaching in Europe in the Face of Wartime Persecution (*jv* p. 448 par. 3-p. 454 par. 2; as time permits, include brief comments on faithful Witnesses, pp. 451-3)
No. 2: Matthew 24:32-44
No. 3: What Happens to Our Dead Loved Ones? (*kl* pp. 80-1 pars. 1-6)
No. 4: Hanun (son of Nahash)—Theme: Be Careful About Judging Another's Motives

Apr. 28 Written Review. Complete Zechariah 1 to Matthew 25
Song No. 217

May 5 Bible reading: Matthew 26

Song No. 205

No. 1: Progress Despite Hardships During War Years (*jv* p. 455 par. 1–p. 461 par. 2; may include summary on p. 461)

No. 2: Matthew 26:31-35, 69-75

No. 3: What Returning to Dust Really Means (*kl* pp. 82-3 pars. 7-10)

No. 4: Hazael—Theme: A Ruthless Oppressor Fulfills Bible Prophecy

May 12 Bible reading: Matthew 27 and 28

Song No. 102

No. 1: Matthew—Why Beneficial (*si* pp. 180-1 pars. 29-33)

No. 2: Matthew 27:11-26

No. 3: What Is the Condition of the Dead? (*kl* pp. 83-4 pars. 11-14)

No. 4: Herod the Great—Theme: A Man's Works Reveal Whom He Serves

May 19 Bible reading: Mark 1 and 2

Song No. 185

No. 1: Introduction to Mark (*si* pp. 181-3 pars. 1-11)

No. 2: Mark 1:12-28

No. 3: All Those in Jehovah's Memory Will Be Resurrected (*kl* pp. 85-7 pars. 15-18)

No. 4: Herod Antipas—Theme: The Consequences of Ungodly Ambition

May 26 Bible reading: Mark 3 and 4

Song No. 166

No. 1: Searching Thoroughly for Sheeplike Ones (*jv* p. 462 par. 1–p. 466 par. 2)

No. 2: Mark 3:1-15

No. 3: Resurrection to Where? (*kl* pp. 88-9 pars. 19-22)

No. 4: Herod Agrippa I—Theme: Hypocrisy and Pride Lead to Death

June 2 Bible reading: Mark 5 and 6

Song No. 42

No. 1: Promoting Education for Life (*jv* p. 466 par. 3–p. 470 par. 2)

No. 2: Mark 5:21-24, 35-43

No. 3: God's Kingdom and Its Purpose (*kl* pp. 90-1 pars. 1-5)

No. 4: Herod Agrippa II—Theme: God's Favor Requires More Than Intellectual Curiosity

June 9 Bible reading: Mark 7 and 8

Song No. 33

No. 1: Preaching in the Pacific Islands Despite Opposition (*jv* p. 470 par. 3–p. 474 par. 4)

No. 2: Mark 7:24-37

No. 3: God's Kingdom Is a Government (*kl* pp. 91-2 pars. 6-7)

No. 4: Herod Philip and Philip the Tetrarch—Theme: Family Intrigue and Worldly Position Are Vanity

June 16 Bible reading: Mark 9 and 10

Song No. 111

No. 1: A Great River of Truth Flows in Africa (*jv* p. 475 par. 1–p. 481 par. 1)

No. 2: Mark 9:14-29

No. 3: How We Know That God's Kingdom Is Real (*kl* pp. 92-3 pars. 8-11)

No. 4: Herodias—Theme: The Folly of Pursuing Prominence

June 23 Bible reading: Mark 11 and 12

Song No. 119

No. 1: Identifying the Real Sheep (*jv* p. 481 par. 2–p. 484 par. 4)

No. 2: Mark 11:12-25

No. 3: Why God's Kingdom Is Mankind's Only Hope (*kl* pp. 94-5 pars. 12-13)

No. 4: Hezekiah (king of Judah)—Theme: Faith and Zeal Are Not Hereditary

June 30 Bible reading: Mark 13 and 14

Song No. 127

No. 1: More Workers Share in the Harvest (*jv* p. 484 par. 5–p. 488 par. 1)

No. 2: Mark 14:12-26

No. 3: Why Jesus Did Not Begin to Rule Immediately After His Ascension to Heaven (*kl* pp. 95-6 pars. 14-15)

No. 4: Hiram (king of Tyre)—Theme: Friendly Neighbors Can Be Helpful

July 7 Bible reading: Mark 15 and 16

Song No. 187

No. 1: Mark—Why Beneficial (*si* p. 186 pars. 31-3)

No. 2: Mark 15:16-32

No. 3: When Did the Appointed Times of the Nations Begin and End? (*kl* pp. 96-7 pars. 16-18)

No. 4: Hobab—Theme: Making a Decision to Serve Jehovah

July 14 Bible reading: Luke 1

Song No. 189

No. 1: Introduction to Luke (*si* pp. 187-8 pars. 1-9)

No. 2: Luke 1:5-17

No. 3: These Are the Last Days (*kl* pp. 98-9 pars. 1-4)

No. 4: Hophni—Theme: A Privileged Position Is No License for Ungodly Conduct

July 21 Bible reading: Luke 2 and 3

Song No. 195

No. 1: The Orient and Europe Produce More Praisers of Jehovah (*jv* p. 488 par. 2–p. 495 par. 2)

No. 2: Luke 2:1-14

No. 3: What Are Some Features of the Last Days? (*kl* pp. 99-103 pars. 5-7)

No. 4: Huldah—Theme: Jehovah Inspired a Fearless Prophetess

July 28 Bible reading: Luke 4 and 5

Song No. 156

No. 1: How More People Were Reached With the Good News (*jv* p. 495 par. 3–p. 500 par. 4; may include summary on p. 501)

No. 2: Luke 4:31-44

No. 3: Debased Human Behavior Foretold for Last Days (*kl* pp. 103-4 pars. 8-12)

No. 4: Hushai—Theme: A Loyal Friend Speaks Up

Aug. 4 Bible reading: Luke 6 and 7

Song No. 201

No. 1: Large Conventions and Christian Conduct Give a Witness (*jv* p. 502 par. 1–p. 507 par. 4)

No. 2: Luke 6:37-49

No. 3: Two Unique Features of the Last Days (*kl* p. 105 pars. 13-14)

No. 4: Hymenaeus—Theme: Beware of Apostates!

Aug. 11 Bible reading: Luke 8 and 9

Song No. 143

No. 1: The Fields Are White for Harvesting (*jv* p. 508 par. 1–p. 513 par. 1)

No. 2: Luke 9:23-36

No. 3: Respond to the Evidence That These Are the Last Days (*kl* pp. 106-7 pars. 15-17)

No. 4: Isaac—Theme: Obedience Reveals the Quality of Faith

Aug. 18 Bible reading: Luke 10 and 11

Song No. 34

No. 1: Witness to People Wherever and Whenever Possible (*jv* p. 513 par. 2–p. 517 par. 1)

No. 2: Luke 11:37-51

No. 3: Wicked Spirits Do Exist! (*kl* p. 108 pars. 1-3)

No. 4: Isaiah—Theme: Cultivate a "Send Me" Attitude

Aug. 25 Written Review. Complete Matthew 26 to Luke 11

Song No. 155

Sept. 1 Bible reading: Luke 12 and 13

Song No. 123

No. 1: Jehovah Is Speeding Up the Work (*jv* p. 517 par. 2–p. 520 par. 2; may include summary on p. 520)
No. 2: Luke 13:1-17
No. 3: Wicked Angels Take Sides With Satan (*kl* p. 109 pars. 4-5)
No. 4: Ish-bosheth—Theme: A Fearful but Righteous Man

Sept. 8 Bible reading: Luke 14 to 16

Song No. 29

No. 1: Zealous Missionaries and the Role of Gilead School (*jv* p. 521 par. 1–p. 524 par. 3)
No. 2: Luke 14:1-14
No. 3: Reject All Forms of Spiritism (*kl* p. 111 pars. 6-8)
No. 4: Ishmael (son of Abraham)—Theme: Blessed by God but Not as Abraham's Heir

Sept. 15 Bible reading: Luke 17 and 18

Song No. 131

No. 1: How Gilead Missionaries Were Different (*jv* p. 525 par. 1–p. 531 par. 4)
No. 2: Luke 17:22-37
No. 3: Why the Bible Condemns Spiritism (*kl* pp. 112-13 pars. 9-11)
No. 4: Ittai—Theme: Be Loyal to Those Taking the Lead

Sept. 22 Bible reading: Luke 19 and 20

Song No. 204

No. 1: Learning a New Language and Opening New Fields (*jv* p. 532 par. 1–p. 537 par. 3)
No. 2: Luke 19:11-27
No. 3: The Bible Reveals How Wicked Spirits Operate (*kl* pp. 113-14 pars. 12-13)
No. 4: Jacob (son of Isaac)—Theme: Be Blameless and Pursue Spiritual Goals

Sept. 29 Bible reading: Luke 21 and 22

Song No. 86

No. 1: How the Love and Zeal of Missionaries Have Advanced Kingdom Work (*jv* p. 537 par. 4–p. 541 par. 3)
No. 2: Luke 22:24-38
No. 3: How to Resist Wicked Spirits (*kl* pp. 114-15 pars. 14-15)
No. 4: Jael—Theme: Courageous and Decisive Action Fulfilled Prophecy

Oct. 6 Bible reading: Luke 23 and 24

Song No. 218

No. 1: Luke—Why Beneficial (*si* pp. 192-3 pars. 30-5)
No. 2: Luke 23:32-49
No. 3: How to Strengthen Your Faith (*kl* pp. 115-16 pars. 16-17)
No. 4: Jairus—Theme: Exercise Faith in Jesus Christ

Oct. 13 Bible reading: John 1 to 3

Song No. 31

No. 1: Introduction to John (*si* pp. 193-5 pars. 1-9)
No. 2: John 1:19-34
No. 3: Keep Up Your Fight Against Wicked Spirits (*kl* pp. 116-17 pars. 18-20)
No. 4: James (son of Zebedee)—Theme: Be a Zealous Follower of Christ

Oct. 20 Bible reading: John 4 and 5

Song No. 10

No. 1: Equipped to Serve Jehovah Despite Opposition (*jv* p. 541 par. 4–p. 546 par. 6)
No. 2: John 4:39-54
No. 3: Living a Godly Life Brings Happiness (*kl* pp. 118-19 pars. 1-4)
No. 4: James (son of Joseph and Mary)—Theme: Never Give Up on Family Members

Oct. 27 Bible reading: John 6 and 7

Song No. 150

No. 1: The Power Behind the Good News (*jv* p. 547 par. 1–p. 551 par. 1)
No. 2: John 6:52-71
No. 3: Honesty Results in Happiness (*kl* pp. 119-20 pars. 5-6)
No. 4: Japheth—Theme: Respectful Actions Bring Blessings

Nov. 3 Bible reading: John 8 and 9

Song No. 121

No. 1: Reaching 'Inaccessible Territories' With the Good News (*jv* p. 551 par. 2–p. 553 par. 4)
No. 2: John 9:18-34
No. 3: Generosity Brings Happiness (*kl* p. 120 pars. 7-8)
No. 4: Jeduthun (a Levitical musician)—Theme: Praise Jehovah With Music

Nov. 10 Bible reading: John 10 and 11

Song No. 162

No. 1: Preaching Publicly and From House to House (*jv* p. 556 par. 1–p. 560 par. 3)
No. 2: John 10:22-39
No. 3: Guard Your Thinking Abilities and Avoid What Is Bad (*kl* p. 121 pars. 9-10)
No. 4: Jehoash (king of Judah)—Theme: Respect All of Jehovah's Faithful Servants

Nov. 17 Bible reading: John 12 and 13

Song No. 200

No. 1: How the Responsibility to Witness Was Carried Out (*jv* p. 561 par. 1–p. 565 par. 2)
No. 2: John 12:1-16
No. 3: Faithfulness to One's Mate Brings Happiness in Marriage (*kl* pp. 122-3 pars. 11-13)
No. 4: Jehoash (king of Israel)—Theme: Jehovah Does Not Favor Halfheartedness

Nov. 24 Bible reading: John 14 to 16

Song No. 3

No. 1: Witnessing in Public Places and Learning to Explain Our Faith (*jv* p. 565 par. 3–p. 570 par. 1)
No. 2: John 16:1-16
No. 3: Be No Part of the World (*kl* pp. 123-5 pars. 14-15)
No. 4: Jehoiachin—Theme: Jehovah's Word Never Fails

Dec. 1 Bible reading: John 17 and 18

Song No. 96

No. 1: An Identifying Mark of God's True Witnesses (*jv* p. 570 par. 2–p. 574 par. 4)
No. 2: John 18:1-14
No. 3: Why True Christians Do Not Celebrate Christmas or Birthdays (*kl* p. 126 pars. 16-17)
No. 4: Jehoiada (high priest)—Theme: Promote True Worship With Wisdom and Courage

Dec. 8 Bible reading: John 19 to 21

Song No. 87

No. 1: John—Why Beneficial (*si* pp. 198-9 pars. 30-5)
No. 2: John 19:25-37
No. 3: Keep On Observing the Lord's Evening Meal (*kl* p. 127 par. 18)
No. 4: Jehoiakim—Theme: Nothing Can Stop the Fulfillment of God's Word

Dec. 15 Bible reading: Acts 1 to 3

Song No. 55

No. 1: Introduction to Acts (*si* pp. 199-200 pars. 1-8)
No. 2: Acts 1:1-14
No. 3: How Bible Principles Apply to Work and Recreation (*kl* pp. 127-8 pars. 19-20)
No. 4: Jehonadab (son of Rechab)—Theme: Loyally Support Those Taking the Lead in Jehovah's Worship

Dec. 22 Bible reading: Acts 4 to 6

Song No. 2

No. 1: Producing Bible Literature for Use in the Ministry (*jv* p. 575 par. 1–p. 579 par. 3)
No. 2: Acts 5:27-42
No. 3: Show Respect for Life and Blood (*kl* pp. 128-9 pars. 21-3)
No. 4: Jehoram (son of Ahab)—Theme: Faithless Men Cannot Expect God's Blessing

Dec. 29 Written Review. Complete Luke 12 to Acts 6

Song No. 177

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Literature offer for **October:** Individual copies of both *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* Where interest is found on return visits, subscriptions may be offered. **November:** *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life.* A special effort will be made to follow up on all placements, with a view to starting home Bible studies. **December:** *New World Translation* with the book *The Bible—God's Word or Man's?* **January:** Any 192-page book published prior to 1984 that the congregation may have in stock. Congregations that do not have a supply of such books may offer *Survival Into a New Earth.*
- The insert in this issue of *Our Kingdom Ministry* is the "Theocratic Ministry School Schedule for 1997" and should be kept for reference throughout 1997.
- Congregations should begin requesting *Examining the Scriptures Daily—1997* with their October literature request. The booklets will be available in Arabic, Chinese, Chinese (Simplified), Croatian, Danish, Dutch, English, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Gujarati, Hebrew, Hindi, Hungarian, Iloko, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Samoan, Serbian, Spanish, Swedish, Tagalog, Turkish, Ukrainian, and Vietnamese. Until these booklets are available and shipments are made, they will appear as "Pending" on congregation packing lists. *Examining the Scriptures* booklets are special-request items.
- New Publications Available:

Does God Really Care About Us? —Slovak
Enjoy Life on Earth Forever! —Czech, Kirghiz
Hellfire—Is It Part of Divine Justice? (Tract No. 74) —Turkish
Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life —Malayalam
"Look! I Am Making All Things New" —Slovak
The Government That Will Bring Paradise —Serbian, Slovak
Watch Tower Publications Index 1991-1994 —Danish
Watch Tower Publications Scripture Index 1991-1994 —Romanian
Will Suffering Ever End? (Tract No. 75) —Thai

- New Compact Discs Available:

Kingdom Melodies on Compact Disc, Volume 2

- New Videocassettes Available:

Jehovah's Witnesses Stand Firm Against Nazi Assault —English
United by Divine Teaching —Chinese (Cantonese), German, Portuguese

CONGREGATION BOOK STUDY

Schedule for congregation studies in the book *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived.*

October 7: **Chapters 11-13**
October 14: **Chapters 14-16**
October 21: **Chapters 17-19**
October 28: **Chapters 20-22**

JULY SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**168**	**120.2**	**80.1**	**48.8**	**4.6**
Pios.	**68,473**	**70.9**	**38.1**	**22.7**	**2.1**
Aux. Pios.	**23,063**	**59.9**	**31.3**	**13.1**	**1.0**
Pubs.	**832,408**	**9.8**	**6.6**	**3.5**	**0.4**
TOTAL	**924,112**		Baptized: **8,970**		

QUESTION BOX

- How long should a formal Bible study be conducted with an individual in the *Knowledge* book?

1 Jehovah is blessing his organization today. We see evidence of this each year as thousands of new ones take a stand for the truth. The *Knowledge* book is proving to be an effective tool in accomplishing this. The January 15, 1996, issue of *The Watchtower* pointed out that this book is designed to help a Bible student make spiritual progress rather quickly, perhaps to the point of baptism within a few months.

2 For this reason, the same *Watchtower,* page 17, advised: "After an individual has completed his Bible study in the *Knowledge* book and has been baptized, it may not be necessary to conduct a formal study with him in a second book."

3 What about a person who does not get baptized after completing the *Knowledge* book? The June 1996 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 6, paragraph 23, reminded us of the point made in *The Watchtower* about not studying additional books with the same student after completing the *Knowledge* book. Does this mean that we are not interested in helping a Bible student beyond this point? No. We want people to receive a basic knowledge of the truth. Yet, it is expected that within a relatively short period of time, an effective teacher will be able to assist a sincere average student to acquire sufficient knowledge to make an intelligent decision to serve Jehovah. It may be that because of their personal circumstances, some Bible students will even desire to study more than once a week.

4 Admittedly, some students will progress more slowly than others. But if after studying the *Knowledge* book, which may have taken longer than would normally be the case, the person has not decided that he wants to become associated with the congregation, the publisher would do well to discuss the situation with one of the elders on the Congregation Service Committee. If extenuating or unusual circumstances are involved, some further help may be warranted. This is in harmony with the principle of what is stated in paragraphs 11 and 12 on page 17 of the January 15, 1996, *Watchtower.*

5 Appreciation for taking in even a basic knowledge of the truth should motivate the student to attend Christian meetings. This could lead the student to giving some clear evidence of his desire to serve Jehovah. If such spiritual appreciation is not evident after the study in the *Knowledge* book has been conducted for an extended period, it may be advisable to discontinue the study.

Prepare Your Own Magazine Presentation

1 We appreciate the *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines for their timely and informative articles, which cover everything from world issues to "the deep things of God." (1 Cor. 2:10) All of us recall many new and upbuilding things we have read in these journals, which Jehovah is using in progressively revealing the truth. (Prov. 4:18) We want to be eager to distribute them as widely as possible.

2 **Analyze Your Territory:** What type of people live in your area? If their pace of life is fast, you may need to prepare a presentation that is brief and to the point. If you have territory where the pace of life is less hurried, you may be able to say more. If most householders work during the day, you may have better success calling at their homes in the late afternoon or early evening. You might contact some in the daytime through street witnessing or working from store to store. Some publishers get good results by approaching people informally in parking lots and city parks.

3 **Acquaint Yourself With the Magazines:** Read each issue as soon as you receive it. Select the articles that you feel might appeal to the people in your territory. What subjects concern them? Look for a specific point that you can quote from the article you plan to feature. Think of a question that you can raise to stimulate interest. Pick out a timely scripture to read to the householder if you get the opportunity to do so. Think about what you might say to mention the donation arrangement and how you could lay the groundwork for a return visit.

4 **Prepare Your Opening Words:** Carefully choose the words you plan on using to introduce yourself and to start a conversation. Some have found success with this opening comment: "I've read a fascinating article in this magazine, and I want to share it with others." Many open with a question that focuses on the talking point they plan to use. For example:

5 ***If highlighting an article on the prevalence of crime, you could ask:***

- "What will it take for us to be able to sleep at night without fear of being robbed or harmed?" Explain that you have some information about a remedy for this problem. The remedy will soon eliminate every other kind of social disorder as well. Refer to something in the magazine that offers such a hope. When you call back, you can draw the householder's attention to chapter 1 of the *Knowledge* book.

6 ***When offering an article on family life, you might say this:***

- "Most parents find it a real challenge to raise a family these days. Many books have been written on the subject, but even the experts don't agree. Is there anyone who can provide reliable guidance?" Share a specific comment from the magazine that demonstrates the wise counsel found in the Bible. When you make the return visit, discuss the Scriptural thoughts on rearing children covered in the *Knowledge* book, pages 145-8.

7 ***In featuring an article on a social problem, you could say:***

- "Many people feel under pressure because of the stressful times in which we live. Do you think God intended that we live this way?" Point to an article that shows how to cope with today's problems or that gives reasons to look forward to a future that will be free from anxiety. On your next visit, discuss the illustration and caption on pages 4-5 of the *Knowledge* book, and then lead right into a home Bible study.

8 **Adapt to the Householder:** You will meet people having different interests and backgrounds. Prepare a basic presentation that you can adjust for each householder. Have in mind how you might adapt what you say to a man, a woman, an older person, or a youth. There are no rigid rules about what you must say. Use whatever is comfortable for you and gets results. However, be enthusiastic, speak from the heart, and be a good listener. Those who are "rightly disposed" will sense your sincerity and will respond favorably.—Acts 13:48.

9 **Assist One Another:** By sharing ideas with one another, we learn new ways to express ourselves. Practicing our presentations together gives us experience and confidence. (Pr. 27:17) If you rehearse what you are going to say, you will feel more at ease at the door. It is vital that parents take the time to help their children prepare, listen as they practice their presentation, and offer suggestions for improvement. New ones can benefit by working with more experienced publishers.

10 Preparing your own magazine presentation need not be difficult. It is simply a matter of getting something specific in mind to say and then expressing it in an appealing manner. With initiative and forethought, you can work up a fine presentation that will get a good response.

11 Magazine distribution is one of the primary ways we spread the Kingdom message worldwide. If you can get *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* into the hands of sincere people, the magazines can speak for themselves. Always remember their value and how their message can save lives. This kind of 'doing good and sharing of things with others' is what pleases Jehovah very much.—Heb. 13:16.

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OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

November 1996 For United States of America Vol. 39, No. 11

Are You Handling God's Word Aright?

[1] Jesus Christ was the greatest teacher who ever lived on earth. He spoke in a way that touched people's hearts, stirred their emotions, and motivated them to practice good works. (Matt. 7:28, 29) He always used God's Word as the basis for his teaching. (Luke 24:44, 45) He gave Jehovah God the credit for all that he knew and was able to teach. (John 7:16) Jesus set a splendid example for his followers by handling God's Word aright.—2 Tim. 2:15.

[2] The apostle Paul also served as an outstanding example by effectively handling the Word of God. He did more than just read the Scriptures to others; he explained and reasoned on what he read, presenting proof from God's Word that Jesus was the Christ. (Acts 17:2-4) Likewise, the eloquent disciple Apollos was "well versed in the Scriptures," and he handled them aright in making a powerful presentation of the truth.—Acts 18:24, 28.

[3] **Be a Teacher of God's Word:** Modern-day Kingdom proclaimers have enjoyed excellent success in teaching honesthearted people by referring to and reasoning from the Bible. In one case, a brother was able to use Ezekiel 18:4 along with related texts to reason with a pastor and three of his parishioners on the destiny of the wicked and the righteous. As a result, some members of the church began to study, and one of them eventually accepted the truth. In another case, a sister was asked to explain to the opposed husband of an interested person why Jehovah's Witnesses do not celebrate Christmas and birthdays. As she read the Scriptural answers directly from the *Reasoning* book, the man expressed his agreement. His wife was so delighted at his acceptance that she said: "We will be coming to your meetings." And the husband agreed!

[4] **Use the Help That Is Available:** *Our Kingdom Ministry* and the Service Meeting program offer fine direction to assist us in the handling of God's Word. Many publishers have expressed appreciation for the variety of suggested presentations that are published and demonstrated for our benefit and that have proved to be very timely and effective. *Reasoning From the Scriptures* contains a wealth of ideas on how to expound aright on more than 70 principal subjects that are addressed in God's Word. *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life* provides a concise summary of all the fundamental Bible teachings that new ones need to understand. Studies 24 and 25 in the *Theocratic Ministry School Guidebook* show us how skilled teachers properly introduce, read, and apply scriptures. We should make good use of all this help that is readily available to us.

[5] When we handle the Word of God aright, we will find that it "is alive and exerts power . . . and is able to discern thoughts and intentions of the heart" of those to whom we preach. (Heb. 4:12) The success we enjoy with it will move us to speak the truth with ever greater boldness!—Acts 4:31.

We Have a Commission

[1] Jesus commanded his followers to "make disciples of people of all the nations." (Matt. 28:19) In 232 lands and island groups around the earth, over five million praisers of Jehovah God provide living testimony to the fulfillment of Jesus' command. But what about us personally? Do we take seriously the commission to preach?

[2] **A Moral Obligation:** A commission is "a command to perform prescribed acts." We are under orders from Christ to preach. (Acts 10:42) The apostle Paul realized that this laid upon him a necessity, or moral obligation, to declare the good news. (1 Cor. 9:16) To illustrate: Imagine that you are a crewman on a sinking ship. The captain orders you to warn the passengers and direct them to the lifeboats. Will you ignore that command and concentrate on saving just yourself? Certainly not. Others are depending on you. Their lives are at stake. You are morally obligated to carry out your commission to help them.

[3] We have been divinely commissioned to sound a warning. Jehovah will soon bring an end to this entire wicked system of things. Millions of lives hang in the balance. Would it be right for us to ignore the peril to others and be concerned only about saving ourselves? Of course not. We are morally obligated to help save the lives of others.—1 Tim. 4:16.

[4] **Faithful Examples to Follow:** The prophet Ezekiel felt an accountability to give a warning message to unfaithful Israelites. Jehovah emphatically warned him of the consequences if he failed to carry out his assignment: "When I say to someone wicked, 'You will positively die,' and you do not actually warn him . . . , he being wicked, in his error he will die, but his blood I shall ask back from your own hand." (Ezek. 3:18) Ezekiel loyally fulfilled his commission even in the face of stiff opposition. Therefore, he could rejoice when Jehovah's judgments were carried out.

[5] Centuries later, the apostle Paul wrote of his responsibility to preach. He declared: "I am clean from the blood of all men, for I have not held back from telling you all the counsel of God." Paul preached publicly and from house to house because he recognized that a failure to do so could have made him bloodguilty before God.—Acts 20:20, 26, 27.

[6] Do we have the zeal of Ezekiel? Do we feel impelled to preach as did Paul? Our commission is the same as theirs was. We must continue to fulfill our responsibility to warn others, in spite of their apathy, indifference, or opposition. Thousands more can yet respond to the Kingdom message and declare: "We will go with you people, for we have heard that God is with you people." (Zech. 8:23) May our love for God and our fellowman motivate us not to give up. We have a commission to preach!

SERVICE MEETINGS FOR NOVEMBER

Week Starting November 4

Song 29

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Comment on August field service report for the country and for the local congregation.

15 min: "Are You Handling God's Word Aright?" Questions and answers. Include comments on "Reasons for considering the Bible," from the *Reasoning* book, pages 58-60.

20 min: "This Means Everlasting Life." (Paragraphs 1-5) After brief opening comments on paragraph 1, have two capable publishers demonstrate the presentations in paragraphs 2-5. Include a reminder to mention the donation arrangement when placing literature. Emphasize the goal of starting a Bible study.

Song 128 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting November 11

Song 40

10 min: Local announcements. Accounts report.

20 min: Why Give to Jehovah? Discussion between two elders, highlighting main points in article on pages 28-31 of *The Watchtower* of November 1, 1996. Or information may be presented in a talk by an elder.

15 min: "This Means Everlasting Life." (Paragraphs 6-8) Discuss the advantages of using a direct approach to start studies. Have experienced publishers demonstrate the presentations in paragraphs 6-7. Invite audience to relate instances of where a study was started on the initial call. When directly offered a study, one man replied: "Yes. Come inside. I would love to have a study." The study was started with him, his whole family sat in the next week, and soon all were attending meetings and sharing in the witness work. Encourage all to bring their copy of the June 1996 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert to next week's Service Meeting.

Song 129 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting November 18

Song 140

10 min: Local announcements. Review field service arrangements during worldly holiday on November 28.

15 min: "We Have a Commission." Questions and answers. Comment briefly on paragraphs 13-16 in the January 1, 1988, *Watchtower,* pages 28-9.

20 min: Conducting Progressive Bible Studies. Talk by the service overseer. We have been using the *Knowledge* book in the Bible study work for over a year. Likely some students have already finished it, while others are well along in the book. We were encouraged to concentrate on conducting studies designed to help new ones learn the truth quickly, apply it in their lives, and become part of the congregation. The June 1996 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert provided fine suggestions to help us to be effective as teachers. Briefly review some of the things we can do to teach students skillfully, as covered in paragraphs 3-13 of that insert. Next, concentrate on what needs to be done to help them take a positive stand, as outlined in paragraphs 14-22. Read paragraphs 15, 17, 20-1. Review some positive reports showing how good results have been achieved by local publishers. Encourage more to share in the Bible study work.

Song 85 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting November 25

Song 46

5 min: Local announcements.

15 min: "Share With Others According to Their Needs." Talk by an elder.

10 min: Question Box. Discuss with audience. Anthony Taylor

15 min: Review Literature Offer for December. Offer the *New World Translation* with the book *The Bible—God's Word or Man's?* Using pages 327-31 in the *"All Scripture"* book, show the superiority of the *New World Translation:* It upholds and magnifies the divine name (paragraphs 1-2); its improved renderings make the text more understandable (paragraph 6); it is a powerful instrument for use in the ministry (paragraphs 22-3). Outline and demonstrate a brief presentation, using thoughts on page 189 of *The Bible—God's Word or Man's?* Wherever interest is shown, definite arrangements should be made for a return visit.

Song 180 and concluding prayer.

CONGREGATION BOOK STUDY

Schedule for congregation studies in the book *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived.*

November 4: **Chapters 23-25**
November 11: **Chapters 26-28**
November 18: **Chapters 29-31**
November 25: **Chapters 32-34**

7:10 - 7:20

QUESTION BOX

■ What should we keep in mind when writing letters to householders whom we have been unable to find at home? why need to write

For a variety of reasons, we are finding it increasingly difficult to contact people when we visit their homes. Some publishers have found letter writing to be a practical way to reach them. While this can produce some good results, there is a need to consider some reminders that can help us to avoid some difficulties:

(1) Do not use the Society's return address. This would improperly indicate that the correspondence was sent from our offices, causing unnecessary problems and sometimes extra expense.

(2) Make sure you have the correct address and sufficient postage.

(3) Do not address letters to "Occupant"; use a specific name.

(4) Do not leave letters in the door when no one is at home. mailbox

(5) Brief letters are best. Enclose a tract or a magazine rather than attempt to write out a lengthy message. (6) Typewritten letters are much easier to read and create a more favorable impression.

Letters are not counted as return visits, unless you have personally witnessed to the individual previously.

(7) If you are writing to a person who formerly showed interest, you should provide an address or phone number so that you can be contacted. Explain our Bible study program.

(8) Extend an invitation to the meetings of the local congregation. Give the address and meeting times.

(9) Do not continue to send letters to not-at-homes after turning in the territory; the publisher who currently holds the territory is responsible for working it.

what are we doing now
and in letter writing

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **November:** *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life.* A special effort will be made to follow up on all placements, with a view to starting home Bible studies. **December:** *New World Translation* with the book *The Bible—God's Word or Man's?* **January:** Any 192-page book published prior to 1984 that the congregation may have in stock. Congregations that do not have a supply of such books may offer *Survival Into a New Earth.* **February:** *Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand!*

■ Congregations that still have a supply of *Kingdom News* No. 34 may encourage publishers to offer these in the same manner that other tracts are used, whether from door to door or elsewhere. If permissible, publishers may leave one at each not-at-home, making sure it is placed completely out of sight of passersby. Effort should be made to distribute all remaining copies of this valuable message.

■ Congregations should begin requesting the *1997 Yearbook of Jehovah's Witnesses* with their November literature request. The *Yearbook* will be available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, and Swedish. Until the *Yearbook* is available and shipments are made, it will appear as "Pending" on congregation packing lists. *Yearbooks* are special-request items.

AUGUST SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**143**	**117.0**	**80.3**	**48.7**	**4.4**
Pios.	**70,582**	**60.1**	**32.2**	**19.3**	**2.0**
Aux. Pios.	**21,334**	**58.5**	**32.4**	**13.5**	**1.1**
Pubs.	**883,770**	**9.4**	**6.4**	**3.4**	**0.4**
TOTAL	**975,829**		Baptized: **3,308**		

The report shows a new peak of 975,829 total publishers. This is an increase of 19,483, or 2.0 percent, over the previous peak, in August 1995.

Share With Others According to Their Needs

[1] Jehovah makes provision to fill our spiritual needs through the faithful "slave." (Matt. 24:45-47) Many of these provisions are in the form of books, Bibles, bound volumes, videos, audiocassette recordings, and computer disks for Bible research. What Jehovah supplies is always sufficient without being wasteful. He expects us to share with one another, making sure that all benefit equally.

[2] All such provisions are produced at tremendous financial cost. These expenses are cared for by the worldwide brotherhood. This is especially true since the organization instituted the arrangement to distribute literature without charge, depending entirely on voluntary donations to cover the expense. Additionally, many branches obtain these provisions from the Society at a cost that enables the brothers to have what they need for meetings and field activity even though they have very limited material resources.

[3] **How We Can Help:** We can respond to Paul's admonition to share with others "according to their needs." (Rom. 12:13) When we make financial contributions toward the worldwide work, we are directly sharing what we have with our brothers around the world. With this in mind, some have decided to set aside an amount to contribute to the worldwide work each month, just as they do for Kingdom Hall expenses. They recognize that these funds are used not only for literature production but for all facets of the work as well. Imagine the great benefit our worldwide brotherhood would experience if more would share in this way on a regular basis.

[4] Further, we can share with them by always being conservative when requesting items that are readily available to us. Ordering only what we actually need allows our brothers elsewhere to receive the spiritual provisions that they also need to keep strong and to advance the preaching of the good news in their part of the world.—Heb. 13:16.

[5] We should especially bear this in mind when we request items that are produced at considerable expense to the Society. These include videos, CD-ROMs, large reference books, bound volumes, and audiocassette subscriptions. Rather than requesting one item for each member of the household, could the entire family get along with just one? If we limit what we take for ourselves, it will allow others to obtain the same good things that we enjoy.—Phil. 2:4.

[6] The cost of literature that we place in the field may be offset in part by donations to the Society's worldwide work offered by us at the Kingdom Hall and by interested ones who accept it. However, when it comes to literature items we request for our personal use, including songbooks, *Yearbooks,* deluxe Bibles, and so forth, we cannot expect outsiders to care for our needs. Jehovah's dedicated servants are the primary source of this financial support. With that in mind, many publishers estimate what these items might cost if commercially produced, and then they contribute accordingly. For example, a deluxe, gold-edged Bible can easily cost $20 or more, a reference book may be $40 and up, a full-color wall calendar may sell for at least $5, an encyclopedia on CD-ROM costs from $50 to $100 or higher, music compact discs commonly cost close to $20, and some videos are often sold for much more. A failure to contribute enough to cover costs will ultimately restrict what the organization may otherwise be able to accomplish in furthering the worldwide work.

[7] Jesus declared that his true disciples would be clearly identified by their love for one another. (John 13:34, 35) Our generosity in giving materially and our unselfishness in sharing with others according to their needs are surely fine ways to prove ourselves to be genuine Christians.

"This Means Everlasting Life"

[1] Jesus' words recorded at John 17:3 are to be taken seriously. He meant what he said—taking in knowledge of God and Christ means everlasting life! But is it just by our possessing knowledge of Jehovah and Jesus that we will be rewarded with life eternal? No. The Israelites knew that Jehovah was their God, but their life course did not reflect that belief. As a result, they lost his favor. (Hos. 4:1, 2, 6) Today millions of people may "have a zeal for God; but not according to accurate knowledge." (Rom. 10:2) They need to come to know Jehovah, "the only true God," and to learn how to serve him properly. To that end, during November we will be offering the book *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life*. What approach will you use in presenting the *Knowledge* book? Here are some suggestions that may help you.

[2] ***Since the idea of living forever on earth is new for most people, this introduction might capture their interest:***

- "We are asking our neighbors a question. If you were invited to live forever in a world like this, would you accept the invitation? [Show the picture on pages 4-5 in the *Knowledge* book. Allow for response.] This can really become your happy lot in life. But what do you think you would have to do to see it become a reality for you? [Allow for response.] Notice what action is required according to John 17:3. [Read.] This book is helping many to acquire this special kind of knowledge. Would you like to have a personal copy to read? [Allow for response.] On my next visit, we can discuss why it is reasonable to believe that we can attain to everlasting life right here on earth."

[3] ***When you return to visit those with whom you discussed John 17:3, you might proceed in this way:***

- "During my last visit, I read to you Jesus' fascinating words found at John 17:3, where he assured us that taking in knowledge of God and of him means everlasting life. But many people believe that a better life can be achieved only in heaven. How do you feel about that? [Allow for response.] If the book that I left with you is handy, I would like to show you some Bible verses that prove Paradise is to be restored on earth. [Discuss paragraphs 11-16 on pages 9-10 in the *Knowledge* book.] On my next visit, I would like to show you why you can trust these promises that are found in the Bible. In the meantime, perhaps you could read chapter 2 in your copy of the book."

[4] ***Here is a presentation that you may wish to use with people who are religiously inclined:***

- "We have been talking to our neighbors regarding why there are so many different religions in the world. Some 1,200 religious denominations exist in the United States alone, and over 10,000 in the entire world. Yet, there is only one Bible. In your opinion, why does this confusion of religions exist? [Allow for response. Open the *Knowledge* book to chapter 5, and read paragraph 1.] You will receive satisfying answers to those questions by reading this chapter. I will be happy to leave the book with you if you care to examine it." If it is accepted, make definite arrangements to return, and say: "When I come back, perhaps we could discuss whether all religions are simply different roads leading to the same place."

[5] ***When you return to continue the discussion about why there are so many religions, you could say this:***

- "When I last spoke with you, I raised the question of whether all religions are merely different roads leading to the same place. What do you think about that? [Allow for response.] I would like to show you in the book I left with you what Jesus said on the matter. [Turn to chapter 5 in the *Knowledge* book, and read paragraphs 6-7, including Matthew 7:21-23.] You may wonder why it is so important to know exactly what the will of God is. You will find that the next paragraphs are very informative. Please read the remainder of this chapter. Next time I come, I will be pleased to show you the value of having accurate Bible knowledge."

[6] ***A direct approach is often successful in starting Bible studies. Here is a suggested introduction that appears on page 12 in the "Reasoning" book:***

- "I'm calling to offer you a free home Bible course. If I may, I'd like to take just a few minutes to demonstrate how people in some 200 lands discuss the Bible at home as family groups. We can use any of these topics as a basis for discussion. [Show the table of contents in the *Knowledge* book.] Which one especially interests you?" Wait for the person to make a selection. Turn to the chapter that is chosen, and start the study in the first paragraph.

[7] ***Here is another successful direct approach that you could try for starting studies:***

- "I give Bible lessons free of charge and have openings in my schedule for additional students. This Bible study aid is what we use. [Show the *Knowledge* book.] The course lasts only a few months and provides answers to such questions as: Why does God permit suffering? Why do we grow old and die? What happens to our dead loved ones? And how can we draw close to God?" Then ask, "May I demonstrate the study to you?" If the offer of a study is declined, ask if the person would like to have the *Knowledge* book to read on his own. If he promises to read it, leave a copy.

[8] What a treasure the accurate knowledge of God and Christ is for everyone that possesses it! Taking it in truly means everlasting life in perfect conditions. Let us use every opportunity during November to share with others the knowledge that leads to everlasting life.

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OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

December 1996 For United States of America Vol. 39, No. 12

Who Will Listen to Our Message?

¹ As never before in human history, people are deluged with information, much of which is frivolous and even misleading. As a result, many feel overwhelmed, and it becomes a challenge for us to get them to listen to the message about God's Kingdom. They do not appreciate what a positive effect their listening to God's Word can have on them.—Luke 11:28.

² We rejoice that in many parts of the world, tens of thousands of people are listening to that message and are accepting our offer of home Bible studies. In other territories, however, the response is not nearly so great. Many of the calls we make in the ministry are without positive results, and we may wonder who will listen to our message.

³ We must guard against becoming discouraged. Paul explained: "'Everyone who calls on the name of Jehovah will be saved.' However, how will they call on him . . . of whom they have not heard? How, in turn, will they hear without someone to preach? . . . Just as it is written: 'How comely are the feet of those who declare good news of good things!'" (Rom. 10:13-15) If we diligently sow Kingdom seed, God will make it grow within those of honest heart.—1 Cor. 3:6.

⁴ **The Key Is to Make Regular Return Visits:** In territories where it seems that few people listen to our message, we need to concentrate on developing whatever interest we do find, whether we place literature or not. Why be quick to conclude that nothing will be accomplished? When we sow seed, we do not know where it will have success. (Eccl. 11:6) If we return prepared to share something from the Scriptures, even if only briefly, we may be able to reach the person's heart. We can leave a tract or offer current magazines. Eventually, we may be able to demonstrate a Bible study. We will be pleasantly surprised to see how much Jehovah blesses our efforts.—Ps. 126:5, 6.

⁵ A tract was left with a woman who manifested some interest. She was not found at home again until two months later, and then she was too busy to talk. The same tract was left with her again. Despite the publisher's persistent efforts to reach her at home, it took another three months to contact her, only to find that she was sick. The sister called again the next week, and a brief conversation ensued about the tract. When the sister returned the following week, the woman expressed genuine interest in the Kingdom message. A change of circumstances in her life made her conscious of her spiritual need. A Bible study was started, and she enthusiastically studied every week thereafter.

⁶ As with anything that we want to see grow, whether flowers, vegetables, or interest in the Kingdom message, cultivation is needed. That takes time, exertion, a caring attitude, and determination not to give up. Last year, more than a third of a million people in whom Kingdom seed had taken root were baptized! If we keep on preaching, we will be sure to find many more who will listen to our message. —Compare Galatians 6:9.

Offering Ourselves Willingly

¹ The psalmist David prophesied that Jehovah's people "will offer themselves willingly"; that is, as "prompt volunteers." (Ps. 110:3, footnote) This certainly is being fulfilled among our worldwide association of brothers. During each of the past four service years, Jehovah's people have devoted more than a billion hours to spreading the good news of the Kingdom. And there are many ways, in addition to the preaching and disciple-making work, in which we can offer ourselves willingly to help others.

² **Ways We Can Show Our Willingness:** Some in the congregation might need help to get to the meetings. Why not volunteer to take them with you? Others may be sick, infirm, or hospitalized. Could you take the initiative to visit them or be of assistance in some way? There may be an individual or a family that needs encouragement. Have you thought of extending an invitation to such ones to sit in on your family study occasionally? A pioneer or a publisher may need a companion in the ministry. Why not offer to work together in the service? These are some of the ways in which we can voluntarily work what is good toward those related to us in the faith.—Gal. 6:10.

³ Brothers can show their willingness to be used in Jehovah's organization by striving to measure up to the qualifications for elders and ministerial servants. (1 Tim. 3:2-10, 12, 13; Titus 1:5-9) As we continue to grow in number, there is a need for qualified brothers who are willing to take the lead in preaching and teaching and in shepherding the congregations. —1 Tim. 3:1.

⁴ Perhaps some of us can make ourselves available for Jehovah's service to a greater extent by enrolling as auxiliary pioneers from time to time. Then again, with a few reasonable adjustments in our schedule, we might be able to do so continuously or even take up the regular pioneer service. Are our circumstances such that we could move to an area where there is a greater need for help? Could we make ourselves available to serve at Bethel and thus directly contribute toward the progress of the worldwide work? Much is also being done in the construction of Kingdom Halls, Assembly Halls, and branch facilities around the world, where willingness to work is very much in demand. Those who have offered themselves for these fine works are greatly appreciated, and they have been richly blessed!—Luke 6:38.

⁵ These are thrilling times. Jehovah, by means of his spirit, is accomplishing a marvelous work on earth with his willing people! Whenever Jehovah, through his organization, extends an invitation to share in increased Kingdom activity, we do well to ask ourselves, 'Am I still offering myself willingly?' Then we should prayerfully examine our heart and circumstances. Our godly devotion will prompt us to do all we can in sacred service, thus making Jehovah's heart very glad!—Zeph. 3:17.

SERVICE MEETINGS FOR DECEMBER

Week Starting December 2

Song 134

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.*

15 min: "Who Will Listen to Our Message?" Questions and answers. Include points from the March 22, 1987, *Awake!*, page 5, on why our message is appealing.

20 min: "God's Word Provides Guidance." (Paragraphs 1-6) Introduce part with paragraphs 1-2. (Include *Reasoning* book, pages 58-60, briefly outlining four "Reasons for considering the Bible.") Have capable publishers demonstrate suggested presentations in paragraphs 3-6. Invite audience to comment on (1) how the questions raised helped to stimulate interest, (2) how the scriptures used fit the subject being discussed, (3) how the matter of donations was mentioned, (4) how the return visit naturally followed up the initial discussion, and (5) how an offer of a study was made.

Song 75 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting December 9

Song 100

10 min: Local announcements. Accounts report.

15 min: Helping Older Ones to Share in Service. Many faithful older publishers have a keen desire to share in preaching with the congregation, but they have physical limitations that are due to age and poor health. There are ways we can show them consideration so as to include them in the service group. 1 Offer to provide transportation; 2 arrange for them to work homes where there are fewer stairs to climb; 3 keep the car close by so that they can rest when they get tired; 4 offer to take them on their return visits; 5 let them know you will take them home when they feel they cannot continue. Older ones are thankful for the help that is offered to them. Mention other ways? you show such consideration locally. Review main points in the article "We Appreciate the Older Ones!" found in the February 1, 1986, *Watchtower*, pages 28-9.

20 min: "God's Word Provides Guidance." (Paragraphs 7-9) Comment on "A Need for Guidance" in the May 1, 1993, *Watchtower*, page 3. Explain why our presentations should stress the importance of seeking help from a higher source—God. Have publisher demonstrate presentations in paragraphs 7-8. Emphasize that our goal should be eventually to start a Bible study in the *Knowledge* book.

Song 197 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting December 16

Song 209

10 min: Local announcements. Offer some suggestions on how to respond tactfully to holiday greetings. Outline special field service arrangements for December 25.

15 min: "Offering Ourselves Willingly." Questions and answers. Include comments from the May 1, 1984, *Watchtower*, page 22.

20 min: "Rejoicing With the Increase That God Gives." Enthusiastic talk by elder. Cite experiences or evidence of increase in countries represented, as given in recent *Yearbooks.*

Song 41 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting December 23

Song 93

10 min: Local announcements. Point out some talking points in the current magazines that can be used in service this week. Outline special field service arrangements for January 1.

15 min: Local needs. Or an elder gives a talk on "Retirement—An Open Door to Theocratic Activity?" from the July 15, 1996, *Watchtower*, pages 24-5. —See *Insight*, Volume 2, page 794, paragraphs 2-3.

20 min: "Theocratic Ministry School Enrollment." Talk by school overseer. Give local enrollment statistics, and encourage all who can to enroll. Review instructions for student assignments provided in "Theocratic Ministry School Schedule for 1997."

Song 166 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting December 30

Song 223

10 min: Local announcements. If your congregation is due to rotate meeting times for the new year, give kind encouragement urging all to maintain regular attendance with the congregation at its new times. Briefly review literature offer for January.

10 min: "Help at the Right Time." Draw attention to article, and point out valuable highlights from each of the new publications.

25 min: Prepare to Attend 1997 District Convention. Secretary handles question-and-answer coverage of convention information in January 1997 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert. First, read December 15, 1996, convention assignment letter. Then, after considering paragraph 5 of article, read opening and closing paragraphs of Recommended Lodging List. As noted in the article, emphasize the Scriptural principles for following the Society's direction in rooming matters. Commend the brothers for cooperating with the Society's rooming arrangement.

Song 137 and concluding prayer.

"Help at the Right Time"

[1] How refreshing it is to receive help just when we need it! (Heb. 4:16) At the "Messengers of Godly Peace" District Convention, we rejoiced when we were given two special provisions of help at just the right time.

[2] The new book, *The Secret of Family Happiness*, came at an appropriate time. It focuses on four essentials that promote a happy family life: (1) Self-control, (2) recognition of headship, (3) good communication, and (4) love. The admonition presented in the *Family Happiness* book will help all families who apply it to find godly peace. Set aside time to read the new book carefully and to study it together as a family. Get well acquainted with its features so that you will be prepared to use it effectively when it is offered to the public for the first time, in March.

[3] The new brochure, *What Does God Require of Us?*, has come at the right time to help speed up our disciple-making work. While it may especially be used to help people with limited reading ability, many literate adults and young children will also benefit from its simple explanation of basic Bible teachings. It may be just what is needed to start a study as a stepping-stone to the *Knowledge* book. This provision is sure to help many more appreciate how they can be richly blessed by doing what God requires.

[4] David expressed our sentiments perfectly when he declared that 'he lacked nothing, his soul was refreshed, and his cup was well filled!' (Ps. 23:1, 3, 5) We joyfully look forward to passing on this wonderful spiritual help to many others who sincerely desire to know and to serve the true God, Jehovah.

THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL REVIEW

Closed-book review on material covered in Theocratic Ministry School assignments for the weeks of September 2 to December 23, 1996. Use a separate sheet of paper to write down answers to as many of the questions as you can in the time allotted.

[Note: During the written review, only the Bible may be used to answer any question. References that follow the questions are for your personal research. Page and paragraph numbers may not appear on all references to *The Watchtower*.]

Answer each of the following statements True or False:

1. Elizabeth, like her relative Mary, was of the tribe of Judah. [*it*-1 p. 719 par. 3]
2. There really is no "great fish" capable of swallowing a man whole. (Jonah 1:17) [*si* p. 153 par. 4]
3. Epaphras and Epaphroditus were both companions of the apostle Paul. [*it*-1 p. 731 pars. 4-5]
4. The prophecy at Daniel 9:24, 25 points to the birth of Jesus. [*kl* p. 36 par. 8]
5. Ebed-melech, an Ethiopian eunuch, helped get Jeremiah out of the miry cistern of Malchijah. [*it*-1 p. 672 par. 9]
6. Enoch did not see death because he was taken bodily to heaven. (Gen. 5:24) [*it*-1 p. 729 par. 10]
7. Hosea's prophecy was principally directed to the two-tribe kingdom of Judah. [*si* p. 144 par. 8]
8. The first requirement for serving on a Regional Building Committee is that of having good building experience and knowledge of the construction trades. [*jv* p. 326 par. 1]
9. According to Zephaniah 3:9, God's people will be united in the new world because they will all speak a common language—Hebrew. [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*89 6/1 p. 30.]
10. Elihu acted as a true friend by showing partiality to Job. [*it*-1 p. 710 pars. 3-4]

Answer the following questions:

11. Why is it appropriate that the principal meeting places of congregations worldwide are called Kingdom Halls, and where was the first building that was given this name located? [*jv* p. 319 par. 2]
12. What Scriptural statement by the three Hebrews reveals that their obedience to God was not dependent on divine protection and deliverance? (Dan. 3:16-18) [*si* p. 141 par. 19]
13. What scripture foretells the birthplace of the Messiah? [*si* p. 156 par. 6]
14. Why would powerful works performed in the name of Jesus not be sure evidence of God's favor or backing? [*kl* p. 46 pars. 6-7]
15. Why do Jehovah's Witnesses not pray that God put an immediate stop to wars and food shortages and that he prevent all persecution? [*jv* p. 317 par. 4]
16. In what ways did Queen Esther display the fruit of self-control? [*it*-1 pp. 761-2 par. 13]
17. Although Eli was a high priest in Israel, what weakness of his did he allow to prevail in connection with his sons, leading to what consequence for them? (1 Sam. 2:12, 29, 34) [*it*-1 p. 706, pars. 13-14]
18. Whom was David referring to at Psalm 52:2, 3, and why was this individual so despicable? [*it*-1 p. 644 pars. 2-3]
19. At Haggai 2:9, which temple was the "later house," which was "the former," and why was the glory of the "later house" greater than that of "the

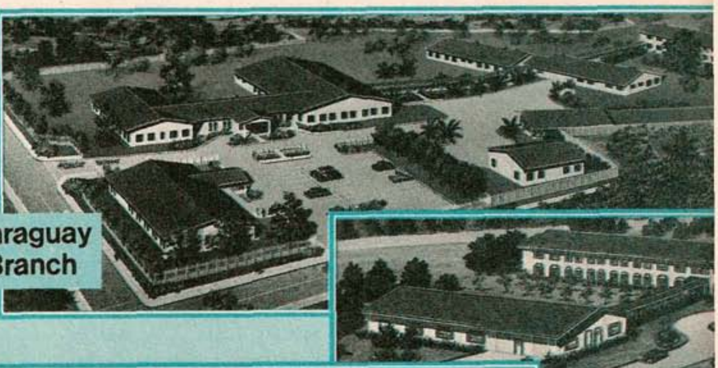
Rejoicing With the Increase

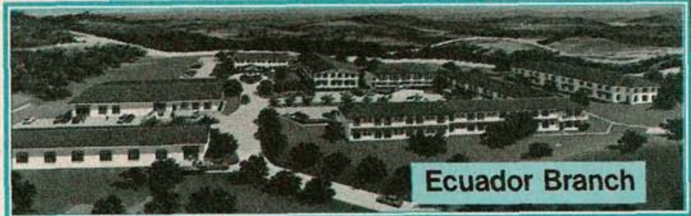
1 Christians in the first century were zealous Kingdom preachers. They rejoiced when the 'congregations increased in number from day to day.' (Acts 16:5) Their bold preaching expanded into Asia, Europe, and Africa, resulting in a rich harvest of believers.

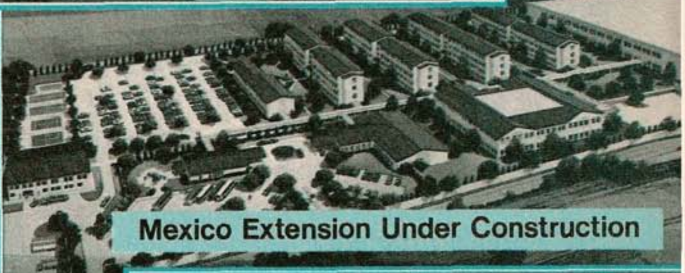
2 Jesus foretold that in the last days, the preaching work would reach into 'all the inhabited earth and all the nations'! (Matt. 24:14) During the 1996 service year, we continued to receive reports of marvelous increases and new peaks of publishers from lands around the globe. Many new congregations have been formed. This rapid growth has made it necessary to construct hundreds of new Kingdom Halls and Assembly Halls as well as to expand a number of branch facilities.

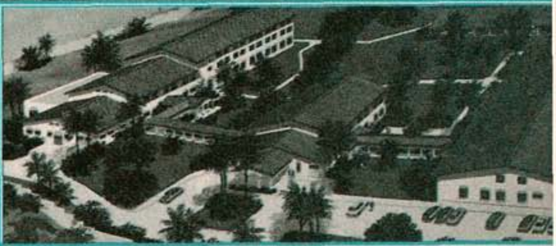
3 The August 1996 *Our Kingdom Ministry* reported on extensive construction work taking place in Africa. Similar activity is under way throughout Latin America. For the 1996 service year, Mexico reports an astounding peak of 470,098 publishers and an average of 600,751 Bible studies, requiring the formation of 466 new congregations! The expansion of their branch facilities is scheduled for completion toward the end of 1999. Similar growth in many other countries allows for no letup in various types of theocratic construction projects.

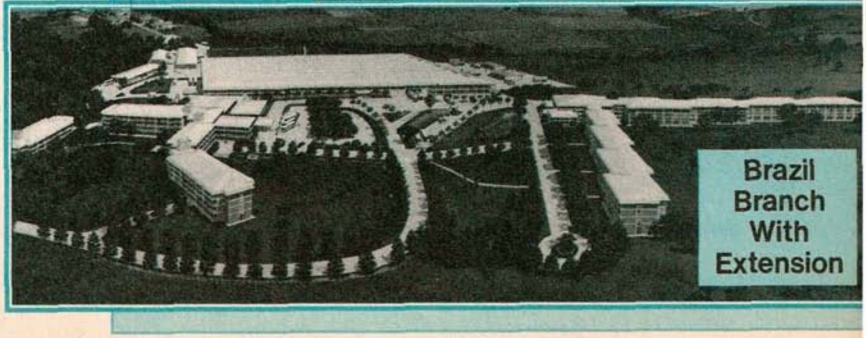
4 Construction costs are high everywhere, and our brothers in many lands have little to contribute materially. However, in their great zeal for Jehovah's service, they certainly are growing spiritually and increasing in great numbers. Proverbs 28:27 assures us that "he that is giving to the one of little means will have no want." Our willingness to help cover these construction costs results in an "equalizing" of material things, enabling all to experience the happiness that comes with giving and the joy that comes with seeing the increase that Jehovah gives!—2 Cor. 8:14, 15; Acts 20:35.


Paraguay Branch

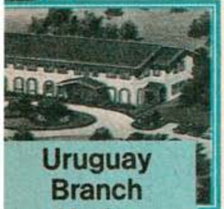

Ecuador Branch


Mexico Extension Under Construction


Dominican Republic Branch


Brazil Branch With Extension

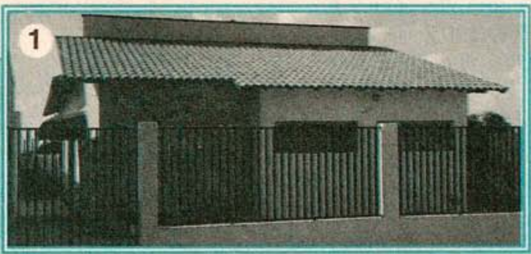
That God Gives

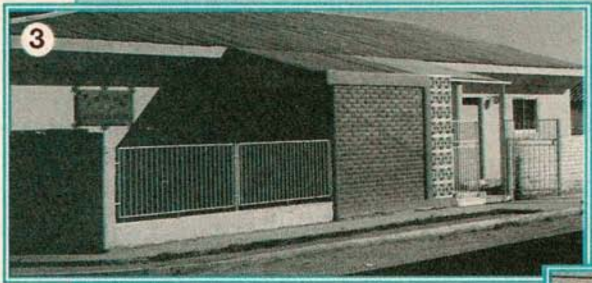


Uruguay Branch Under Construction

Typical low-budget Kingdom Halls in Latin America

1. Brazil
2. Nicaragua
3. Chile
4. Colombia
5. Mexico
6. Brazil
7. Peru
8. Venezuela
9. Mexico





9
SALON del REINO
de los
TESTIGOS de JEHOVA

former"? [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*89 6/1 p. 30.]

20. What was Hosea 14:2 urging the Israelites to do, and how do Jehovah's Witnesses fulfill that prophecy today? (Heb. 13:15) [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*94 9/15 p. 10 pars. 1-2.]

Provide the word(s) or phrase needed to complete each of the following statements:

21. The city of ________ was called the city of bloodshed by the prophet ________ some 200 years after ________ had completed his God-given work there. [*si* p. 154 par. 10, p. 160 par. 10]

22. We need to worship God with ________, being motivated by hearts full of faith and love; we must also worship him with ________ by studying his Word. [*kl* p. 45 par. 4]

23. The prophet ________ asked King ________ for a meeting with the 450 prophets of ________, the outcome of which proved that Jehovah is the true God and that he answers ________. (Jas. 5:16, 17) [*it*-1 p. 711 pars. 1-2]

24. The Christian example of the Jewish woman ________ and her son ________ shows that those who live in ________ households can successfully train their children to fear Jehovah. [*it*-1 p. 767 par. 7]

25. Three avenues of evidence that prove Jesus was the Messiah are (1) ________, (2) ________, and (3) ________. [*kl* pp. 34-8 pars. 6-10]

Select the correct answer in each of the following statements:

26. The understanding of Amos (8:11; 9:2, 3; 9:11, 12) helped the governing body of the first century to realize that it was God's will that non-Israelites be gathered into the Christian congregation. (Acts 15:13-19) [*si* p. 150 par. 16]

27. When (Amos; Joel; Habakkuk) was called by Jehovah, he was not a prophet or the son of a prophet but was a raiser of sheep and a nipper of (dates; figs; olives) of sycamore trees. [*si* p. 148 par. 1]

28. The first reported resurrection performed by an apostle was when (John; Peter; Paul) went to Joppa and raised (Dorcas; Lydia; Eutychus) from the dead. [*it*-1 p. 646 pars. 7-8]

29. Of the three "comforters," (Bildad; Eliphaz; Zophar) had priority in speaking and stands out as the most influential, suggesting that he may also have been the (richest; wisest; oldest). [*it*-1 p. 713 par. 17]

30. The twin brother of (Joseph; Ishmael; Jacob) was named Esau because he was (the firstborn; a hunter; unusually hairy), and he later got the name (Nimrod; Edom; Baal) from the *red* lentil stew for which he sold his birthright. [*it*-1 p. 759 par. 1]

Match the following scriptures to the statements listed below: 2 Ki. 2:23, 24; Zeph. 2:3; Phil. 2:25-30; Jas. 1:26, 27; 1 John 2:15-17

31. In order for our worship to be acceptable to God, it must not only be uncontaminated by worldly practices but also include all things that God considers vital. [*kl* p. 51 par. 20]

32. Jehovah holds children accountable for showing disrespect to his faithful servants. [*it*-1 p. 715 par. 1]

33. Time and unforeseen occurrence befall even faithful servants of Jehovah. [*it*-1 p. 731 par. 5]

34. As true Christians, we must avoid any practices that reflect the spirit of the ungodly world around us. [*kl* p. 50 par. 17]

35. We cannot presume on God's mercy. [*si* p. 165 par. 11]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Literature offer for **December:** *New World Translation* with the book *The Bible—God's Word or Man's?* **January:** Any 192-page book published prior to 1984 that the congregation may have in stock. Congregations that do not have a supply of such books may offer *Survival Into a New Earth.* **February:** *Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand!* **March:** *The Secret of Family Happiness.*
- Congregations should begin requesting bound volumes of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* for 1996 with their December literature request. (See *Watchtower Publications List,* paragraphs 6-8, 10.) The bound volumes will be available in Chinese, Croatian, Dutch, English, French, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Spanish, and Turkish. Until the bound volumes are available and shipments are made, these will appear as "Pending" on congregation packing lists. Bound volumes are special-request items.
- The presiding overseer or someone designated by him should audit the congregation's accounts on December 1 or as soon as possible thereafter. Make announcement to the congregation when this has been done.
- The Memorial for 1998 will be on Saturday, April 11, after sundown. This advance notice of the date for the 1998 Memorial celebration is given so that brothers may make necessary reservations or contracts for available halls when there are several congregations using the Kingdom Hall and they must find other facilities.
- Because of the importance of the occasion, in assigning a Memorial speaker, the body of elders should select one of the more qualified elders instead of simply taking turns or using the same brother each year.
- New Audiocassettes Available:
Singing Kingdom Songs (single audiocassette) —English
- New Compact Discs Available:
Singing Kingdom Songs —English

CONGREGATION BOOK STUDY

Schedule for congregation studies in the book *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived.*

December 2:	**Chapter 35** to subheading "Prayer, and Trust in God"
December 9:	**Chapter 35** from subheading "Prayer, and Trust in God" to end of chapter
December 16:	**Chapters 36-38**
December 23:	**Chapters 39-42**
December 30:	**Chapter 43**

SEPTEMBER SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**184**	**122.0**	**93.9**	**51.6**	**4.2**
Pios.	**72,751**	**80.1**	**50.0**	**24.2**	**2.0**
Aux. Pios.	**23,445**	**58.9**	**37.2**	**14.4**	**1.0**
Pubs.	**818,044**	**9.3**	**6.8**	**3.4**	**0.4**
TOTAL	**914,424**		Baptized: **2,741**		

Theocratic Ministry School Enrollment

¹ The Theocratic Ministry School has been instrumental in the training of millions of Jehovah's Witnesses as ministers of the good news. Many of us remember how apprehensive and inadequate we felt when we first enrolled in this school, and now we gratefully acknowledge its role in our spiritual development as speakers and teachers of God's Word. (Compare Acts 4:13.) Have you enrolled in this remarkable school?

² Who may enroll? Page 73 of *Organized to Accomplish Our Ministry* answers: "All who are actively associated with the congregation may enroll, including people newly attending the meetings, as long as they are not leading a life that is out of line with Christian principles." We invite all who qualify—men, women, and children—to approach the school overseer and ask to be enrolled.

³ **School Program for 1997:** The Theocratic Ministry School program for 1997 covers a wide variety of Bible teachings and characters, as well as the history of the organization. In addition to developing our speaking and teaching abilities, we learn from the many spiritual gems that are found in its curriculum each week. (Prov. 9:9) If we prepare for the school, which includes doing the weekly Bible reading, and are in regular attendance, we can derive great spiritual benefit from the program.

⁴ For 1997 most of the Bible readings for Assignment No. 2 are shorter than in past years. When preparing for this assignment, the student should time his reading carefully and then determine how much of the five minutes allotted for his part can be used for the introduction and the conclusion. This will allow the student to utilize his time fully and to develop both his reading ability and the art of speaking extemporaneously. —1 Tim. 4:13.

⁵ Informal witnessing has been added as a possible setting for presentations in Assignment No. 3, which are based on the *Knowledge* book. Hence, a sister may choose either a return visit, a home Bible study, or informal witnessing as the setting for this assignment. Of course, the main emphasis should continue to be placed on effective teaching and not on the setting.

⁶ Whether you have the privilege of giving the instruction talk, Bible highlights, or a student assignment, you can show your appreciation for the Theocratic Ministry School by preparing and rehearsing your part well, by presenting it with conviction and enthusiasm, by not going overtime, by listening to and applying the counsel of the school overseer, and by always endeavoring to fulfill your assignment faithfully. Thus your enrollment in the school will prove to be a blessing both for you and for all who are in attendance.

God's Word Provides Guidance

1 "We are living in a world with too many problems and far too few answers. Many millions regularly go hungry. Increasing numbers are addicted to drugs. More and more families are breaking up. Incest and family violence are constantly in the news. The air we breathe and the water we drink are slowly being poisoned. Meanwhile, more and more of us are victimized by crime."

2 Thus begins the book *The Bible—God's Word or Man's?* Its introduction is even more relevant today than when the book was published seven years ago. People need to know that God's Word gives guidance and provides solutions to all the problems that plague them. We will endeavor to help people in December by offering them the *New World Translation* and the book *The Bible—God's Word or Man's?* Of course, merely leaving literature with a person is no guarantee that he will accept God's guidance. We must make return visits with the goal of starting a Bible study. Help is assured if we put forth such effort. (Matt. 28:19, 20) Here are some suggested presentations:

3 ***If you meet an older person, you might try this approach:***

- "May I ask: When you were younger, how did people in the community treat one another? [Allow for response.] Things are a lot different now, aren't they? What do you think is the reason for the change? [Allow for response.] We are actually seeing the fulfillment of a prophecy in the Bible. [Read 2 Timothy 3:1-5.] Besides accurately describing the world as it is today, the Bible promises a better world in the near future. For that reason we are encouraging everyone to read the Bible. Did you notice how clear the language is in this Bible, the *New World Translation,* that I was reading from?" Explain that it is written in modern English, making the Bible more understandable. Show the book *The Bible—God's Word or Man's?,* and point out chapter 10, which explains another prophecy that we have seen fulfilled. Offer the Bible and the book. If offer is accepted, mention the donation arrangement that supports our worldwide work.

4 ***When you call back on an older person with whom you placed the Bible and the book, you could say:***

- "When we last talked, we agreed that in many ways modern society has changed for the worse compared with what life was like just a few years ago. However, I came back to show you that the Bible sets out prospects for a much better world in the future. [Read Revelation 21:3, 4.] Knowing that this is God's Word should encourage us to look into what else the Bible has to say." Open the *God's Word* book to chapter 14, and read paragraphs 3-4. Offer a free home Bible study.

5 ***If you engage a younger person in conversation, you could say:***

- "I would like to ask you a question: As a young person, do you feel that you have reason to be optimistic about what lies ahead? How does the future look to you? [Allow for response.] Fortunately, there is real reason to be optimistic about the future. [Read Psalm 37:10, 11.] Since people have varying views of the Bible and its contents, we have published this book, *The Bible—God's Word or Man's?* Notice the reasons it gives for reading the Bible. [Read paragraphs 16-17 on pages 10-11.] Once we are convinced that what the Bible says is true, we come to have a sure hope for the future. If you wish to read this book, I will be happy to leave a copy with you."

6 ***When you return to see a younger person who accepted the "God's Word" book, you might begin by stating:***

- "I appreciated hearing how concerned you are about the future. Recall that I showed you a Bible text promising us a happy and secure future. Here is another one. [Read Revelation 21:3, 4.] The book I left with you gives convincing proof that the Bible is God's Word, not man's. That fact has some profound implications. Notice what they are. [Read paragraphs 1-2 on pages 184-5.] If you would like, I will be pleased to study the Bible with you free of charge." If a study is accepted, ask if the individual has a copy of the Bible. If he does not, offer the *New World Translation.* Give the person an opportunity to make a donation.

7 ***A person who does not know where to turn for guidance to cope with life's problems might respond to this approach:***

- "We live at a time when almost everyone is faced with serious problems. Many turn to all sorts of counselors for guidance. Some look to psychics for help. Where do you think we can find sound counsel that will really work for us? [Allow for response.] The Bible states an important fact that all of us need to appreciate." Read Jeremiah 10:23. Open *The Bible—God's Word or Man's?* to page 187, and read paragraph 9. "This book will help you to appreciate how, under God's Kingdom, all our problems will be eliminated. Would you like to read it?" If accepted, explain our donation arrangement.

8 ***If on the initial call you talked about man's need for guidance, you could continue the discussion on the return visit by saying:***

- "When we first met, we agreed that we need guidance from God if we are going to cope successfully with life's problems. Regarding that, I think you will appreciate the concluding comments that are made in the book I left with you. [Read paragraphs 12-13 on page 189 in the *God's Word* book.] I am pleased to offer you a free home Bible study course, and I am prepared to demonstrate it to you right now."

9 Jehovah will bless our efforts as we help old and young alike to appreciate the value of God's Word and its guidance in our life.—Ps. 119:105.

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